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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What's your level of confidence that CUC will be able to meet Saipan's demand for power when the Aggreko contract ends in September?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 5

As of May 27, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Justice Nominee

Obama has chosen Sonia Sotomayor to be the first Hispanic justice on the Supreme Court.

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Kid Dies

The daughter of boxer Mike Tyson died a day after her neck was caught in a treadmill cord.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Judge finds probable cause against murder suspect. **PAGE 5**

Only one candidate confirmed for Liberation Queen. **PAGE 6**

'A perfect financial storm'

Fitial talks of crisis and unfinished business

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial delivers his fourth State of the Commonwealth Address before a somber crowd yesterday in the House of Representatives Chamber on Capital Hill. His 40-minute address talked about budget and power crisis, federalization and a global economic downturn over the past three years but said his administration has weathered this "perfect financial storm." ***More pictures on Page 2.***

RELATED NEWS

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- 'Fitial fails to offer new solutions for NMI retirees. **PAGE 6**
- Sound bites. **PAGE 3**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's 40-minute State of the Commonwealth Address yesterday talked about a "perfect financial storm" in the past three years that stymied his goal of economic recovery when he came into office in 2006. But he said he is not about to give up, calling for stability and continuity of leadership, six months before the gubernatorial elections.

See STORM on Page 4

Non-HQTs to be renewed for one more year

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System will most likely renew the contracts of its non-highly qualified teachers—at least for another year.

Human resource officer Charlie Kenty said this was based on recommendations made by school principals to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan and the HR office.

"So far, we haven't received any recommendation from our principals as to non-renewal of the contracts of their non-HQT

See NON-HQTS on Page 4

House leaders stand pat vs federalization lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Leaders of the House of Representatives stood pat yesterday on their earlier stance not to support Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's lawsuit against federalization of local immigration.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Reps. Oscar M. Babauta, Diego T. Benavente, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, and Victor B. Hocog bow their heads in prayer as Bishop Tomas A. Camacho conducts the invocation at yesterday's State of the Commonwealth Address. ***More pictures on Page 2.***

REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Some chairs reserved for dignitaries in the House of Representatives Chamber remain empty long before the 16th Legislature opened the joint session to hear the governor's State of the Commonwealth Address yesterday. ***More pictures on Page 2.***

By Saipan Tribune staff reporters

A cellular phone went off inside the House of Representatives chamber during the singing of the National Anthem. It went off again later during the governor's address.

■■■

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's 2009 State of the Commonwealth Address lasted for 40 minutes, starting at 10:20am and ending at

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State of the Commonwealth Address

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, right, delivers the invocation while Senate President Pete Reyes, top left, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, top right, and legislative staffers pray at yesterday's State of the Commonwealth Address in the House of Representatives Chamber on Capital Hill. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Procurement and Supply director Herman Sablan, front, Retirement Fund board of trustees chair Juan T. Guerrero and Galvin Deleon Guerrero, right, along with Cabinet members seen here through the glass windows of the House of Representatives Chamber, listen to the governor's address. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, House legal counsel Joseph LG. Taijeron Jr., Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Senate President Pete P. Reyes, Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos at the speaker's conference room during a break at the joint legislative session yesterday. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Associate Justice Alexandro Castro, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Mrs. Naraja, Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, and Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos after the governor delivered his fourth State of the Commonwealth Address yesterday. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos confer right before the start of yesterday's State of the Commonwealth Address. Also in photo are former Tinian Sen. David CIng, left, and Saipan Municipal Council's RB Camacho, right. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Sen. Maria "Frica" T. Pangelinan and Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider listen to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's State of the Commonwealth Address. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Legislative staffers and Department of Public Safety officers pose for a souvenir photo at the conclusion of yesterday's State of the Commonwealth Address in the House of Representatives Chamber on Capital Hill. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Legislative Bureau director Glenna S.P.-Reyes, seated center, joins other legislative staffers for a group photo after yesterday's orderly State of the Commonwealth Address in the House of Representatives Chamber. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Local

'FITIAL'S REPORT SINCERE BUT…'

Lawmakers see no major progress from last SOCA

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of both legislative chambers described Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's State of the Commonwealth Address yesterday as an informative and sincere report about the true situation of the CNMI but they saw no major progress in the economic plans he had presented in last year's SOCA.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial focused his one-hour speech on the pros and cons of issues and policies that continue to affect government operations and cripple the battered CNMI economy—from the budget deficit and the utilities corporation, to the federalization of local labor and immigration and the Retirement Fund's ongoing lawsuit.

"Overall, the governor's report was good. There was no side-tracking on issues that are not related to the government operation and the CNMI economy. Although the Executive Branch and the Legislature do not always agree on one issue, it was good to hear him recognize the Legislature for some of the progress he noted in the government's administration," Senate President Pete Reyes said, adding the report was also "enlightening and informative."

Rep. Diego Benavente, chairman of the House Committee on Federal Relations, described the presentation as "very minimal" but really tackled the main issues that Commonwealth people want to hear about.

"For me, the presentation was good. He presented the current challenges…and even though it was very minimal, these are the things our people would like to hear on," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray Yumul said he heard what he had expected of the governor's report. "It's pretty much what I expected—issues about the real and current challenges and the true situation of our economy," he said.

House minority leader Rep. Oscar Babauta described the governor's remarks as "frank, sincere, and was spoken from the heart."

Despite the criticisms that Fitial faced due to many unpopular decisions, Babauta believes the governor made significant progress on the budget deficit and the power utilities.

Babauta, along with the Senate President, Yumul and Benavente, said that despite the "gloomy" forecast for the CNMI economy as a result of many issues, the Fitial administration had made significant strides in resolving the massive outages that were experienced last year.

"They made progress on our CUC compared to what we experienced in the previous years," the lawmakers admitted.

'Lack of plan to deal present challenges'

Rep. Tina Sablan believes there were some missing parts in the governor's report to the people.

"I expected the governor to give us a gloomy forecast of the future, and to blame the Legislature and the federal government for the current challenges we face. I also expected that we would not hear an honest assessment of the shortcomings of this administration, or be presented with a compelling and visionary plan of action. The governor's address lived up to my expectations," she said.

Sablan said the address was for the most part the same as last year's with a few updates on CUC, a more expansive list of justifications for the government's lawsuit against the federal government, a summary of federal stimulus funds received, and a nod to the people of Rota and Tinian who can expect more homesteads and better corrections facilities.

"The major challenges haven't changed, whether it's CUC, the healthcare system, the Retirement Fund, the budget, the tourism industry, how to move capital improvement projects forward, or how to make the transition to federal immigration law and to a just, rational, and sustainable economy. And sadly, what also hasn't changed is that there does not seem to be a plan to deal with those challenges," she added.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, for his part, believes that the governor—since deliveringd his report last year—made no significant progress on the many issues facing the Commonwealth.

"Nothing," he told reporters when asked about the major accomplishment he thinks were achieved by the governor since last year's SOCA.

Like Sablan, Palacios admitted that he had expected the governor to again blame the Legislature.

He vehemently disagreed with the governor's argument that federalization was mainly to blame for the downgrading of the CNMI's rating by credit rating agency Moody's, saying the failure to pass a government budget and federalization were among the factors cited in the decision.

"Let's be honest with the issues…sit down and work on the possible solutions," he said, adding this was also why many people are not buying the idea of "austerity holidays" as a way to cut expenditure costs in government.

"Austerity measure is not necessary," he said, adding that the administration can suspend the budget of unnecessary government activities to cover for the austerity proposal.

'Not CUC, but Eloy'

If many lawmakers rated CUC's progress as the administration's major accomplishment in this year's SOCA, a lawmaker from Tinian is not buying the idea.

"It's Eloy [Inos]," Sen. Jude Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune* when asked what he thinks is the major achievements of the government since last year.

"He [Fitial] appointed a very respectable guy…a man who can assist him all the way," he said.

Hofschneider described the governor's report as "very comprehensive."

"At least he's very much aware of the situation, primarily of the economy," he said.

Hofschneider is not convinced that CUC has already achieved "true progress," saying that as long as the Aggreko engines are here and alternative renewable energy for the CNMI remains nonexistent, he can't agree with the administration's report on CUC.

Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan also expressed dissatisfaction with the governor's report.

"I am surprised that the governor even talked about financial reports in 2006 and 2007 when we're already in 2009," she told *Saipan Tribun.*

She also disagreed with the many issues and points Fitial raised about federalization, Moody's decision to downgrade the CNMI's debt rating, and the Retirement Fund.

She said the governor raised the same issues he presented in last year's report.

SOUND BITES

The *Saipan Tribune* conducted a mini-survey on people's reactions to yesterday's State of the Commonwealth Address by Gov. Bengino R. Fitial. Some of them said they didn't have the time to watch it. Most of those interviewed expressed dissatisfaction with how the government is doing to solve the economic crisis but asked that their names not be made public. The rest said the government is doing everything it can to ease people's burden. Only five of the respondents allowed their names to be published. Here's what they had to say:

"I didn't really know what the Governor's speech was about because I didn't watch it. I'm not for him but I like the way he handles the current crisis. At least he's trying to do something about it."

—Jeff Bacani
Senior student, MHS

"I don't mind as along as they are trying make the CNMI better for us all."

—Sabina Camacho
Staff, Hafa Adai Hotel

"I believe the government is doing its best to solve the problem. It's been really hard for us but you cannot solve these problems in just one night. It will take a long time. This is just my personal view as a CNMI citizen."

—AJ Palacios
Baseball scorer/announcer

"The economic crisis is global. The closure of the garment industry has affected us. This started with the WTO [World Trade Organization]. The economy took a nosedive. Now with the minimum wage gone up, we can expect some closures in businesses. Saipan does not have to offer other than low wages. With new immigration policies and visa requirements, many guest workers expected to leave their jobs and we don't have enough skilled workers to fill in those jobs. But the most important issue is the right to self-government that was promised to us. On the issue of lack of personnel at the hospital, they will have to increase the rate of the salaries of doctors."

—Patricia R.

"I didn't watch the Governor's speech. I'm not a voter but I just want to tell them that they should do what government officials are supposed to do. They should do what needs to be done for the benefit of the people of Saipan. They must work hard for the betterment of all and our future. It's been a long time that we have these problems of unemployment. They must find solutions to this problem.

—Roman Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

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NON-HQTS

From Page 1

personnel," Kenty confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

At present, 67 percent of about 500 public school teachers are highly qualified after complying with the requirements of a degree, valid teaching certificate, and passing two Praxis tests.

Kenty said the remaining 33 percent would most likely be retained by PSS for the school opening in September.

Under the No Child Left Behind Act of the U.S. Department of Education, all school districts must be staffed by highly qualified teachers beginning 2011. The CNMI has until July 31, 2011, to comply with this federal mandate.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are 167 teachers who have yet to take Praxis 1 and 2; 39 need to pass Praxis 2 alone; while 16 teachers must pass Praxis 1 alone.

PSS sets Praxis 1 for elementary teachers while secondary teachers need to take Praxis 2 or the rigorous test for content area subjects.

Based on the teachers' compensation plan, a highly qualified teacher can receive up to $47,000 in annual pay, depending on their years of experience and qualifications; non-HQTs are provided starting salary of $27,000.

Since the approval of this compensation plan in 2006, salaries of 114 teachers were cut as a result of noncompliance with the requirements while 151 were automatically provided increases after meeting all the standards.

As of school year 2008-2009, over 66.6 percent—or 319—of PSS teachers enjoy the benefit of salary increases after meeting teacher certification requirements. A big percentage of that number comes from secondary schools.

STORM

From Page 1

As in last year, Fitial had strong words for the Legislature, which he partly blamed for three of four challenges that he said led to the "perfect financial storm" besides the global economic downturn—a budget crisis, a power crisis, and federalization.

Only 24 of the 29 members of the 16th Legislature were present at the SOCA, held in the House of Representatives chamber at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capital Hill.

"Given the significant economic harm presented by federalization, I am disappointed that more members of our Legislature did not get behind our efforts to oppose federalization and support our 903 lawsuit," he told the much smaller crowd.

He said the federalization of the CNMI's immigration and minimum wage rates is "probably our greatest economic challenge today."

Fitial also expressed regret that Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan, who was off island during the SOCA, did not join him in supporting the immediate suspension of further increases in the CNMI's minimum wage pending an objective evaluation.

The CNMI's minimum wage is now $4.55 an hour, after another 50-cent increase on May 26 as required by federal law. The 50-cent increase will kick in every year until the CNMI's minimum wage reaches the federal wage floor of $7.25 an hour.

In his address, Fitial said the budget was passed five months into Fiscal Year 2009 and was achieved through a legislative override.

He said Moody's Investor Service recently downgraded the CNMI's bond rating because of the untimely passage of the FY 2009 budget.

"More importantly, the budget was passed without the necessary austerity measures to cope with dwindling government collections. I again take this opportunity to call on the Legislature to pass needed austerity holidays to deal with our current budget challenge," Fitial said.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said in an interview later that they will work hard to pass the budget on time for FY 2010.

The 16th Legislature also overrode a measure that forced the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to charge below cost at a time of record high oil prices, but lawmakers themselves later amended the policy.

Fitial said his administration's efforts to privatize CUC have failed due to an Office of the Public Auditor decision and differences with the Legislature.

'Suspend litigation'

The governor said the Retirement Fund lawsuit presents a further challenge.

"I urge all parties to suspend litigation and engage in good faith mediation to resolve these issues. Ultimately, we need to grow the economy to offer more resources for retirees," he said.

The Retirement Fund sued the government over non-payment of employer contributions to the pension system. The amount has so far reached over $215 million.

Fitial also called on the Legislature to "quickly pass an omnibus reform bill to protect the Retirement Fund," and to adopt a legislative initiative to authorize a pension obligation bond with voter approval.

"I am ready to sign these reforms into law to protect our retirees," the governor said.

Retirement Fund board of trustees chair Juan T. Guerrero, who was in the House of Representatives chamber, shook his head a bit when the governor addressed the issues of the pension system. Guerrero had said the parties in the lawsuit are "way past" the negotiation period.

No interruptions

Gloomy details of the CNMI economy cast a pall on the occasion, with the governor failing to garner any applause even when he announced that tax refunds and rebates will be released in about three weeks and that 150 homestead lots will be distributed on Rota by the end of the week.

Except for two minor microphone mishaps and a short break to drink water, the governor's address went uninterrupted.

It was only after Fitial finished his address at exactly 11am that the crowd clapped. Those who were in the House of Representatives lobby stood up to applaud.

The governor misspoke the amount of revenue loss faced by the CNMI when it loses access to Russian and Chinese tourists as a result of federalization. He said more than $1 million, instead of $100 million.

Federalization, he said, also harms the Tinian gaming industry, and puts the islands' emerging education and education-tourism industry at risk. Except for IT&E, all call center development plans, along with telemedicine operation, have been halted because of federalization, he said.

"Investors are concerned. To this day, we have yet to see the draft regulations for foreign workers and foreign investors; and our Commerce Department reports a noticeable decrease in the number of investor visa applications and renewals," he said, adding that there is no evidence that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will be ready to protect the CNMI's borders by Nov. 28, 2009.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the governor's address was prepared through collaboration between him, Fitial, Inos, CUC executive director Tony Muna, and special counsel Howard Willens.

Unlike previous years, the governor didn't start his SOCA with a moment of silence to honor the CNMI's fallen soldiers.

When he reached the podium, he immediately addressed Senate President Pete P. Reyes, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and the people of the CNMI.

"Over the past three years, the Commonwealth essentially faced the perfect financial storm," he said.

Weathering the storm

Fitial said he came into office in 2006 after two major developments in 2005: the new World Trade Organization rules that took effect in January 2005 and the pullout of Japan Airlines that gravely affected the CNMI's garment and tourism industries.

These resulted in substantial revenue losses for the government, which Fitial said was "a bloated, deficit-ridden" one that his administration inherited in 2006.

"But we took action. We dramatically reduced costs," he said.

He talked about the budget crisis, the aggressive cost-cutting measures his administration has taken, the abolition of the Marianas Public Lands Authority and replacing it with a "more accountable" Department of Public Lands under the Executive Branch, and the protection of public services despite nearly $100 million in cuts from the government operating budget.

He said he is "constantly amazed by the perpetual mass hiring myth," saying the government has gone from an operating budget of $213 million to $160 million. He noted a 13.5 percent or 247 drop in the number of government employees—from 1,810 on Jan. 21, 2006, to 1,563 on March 24 this year.

Fitial said his administration weathered the perfect financial storm, and indirectly asked people to allow him and Inos to continue their leadership.

The governor made no mention of his former lieutenant governor, Timothy P. Villagomez, who was convicted of corruption by a federal jury on April 24.

"In moments like these, we cannot overemphasize the necessity of stability and continuity of leadership," Fitial said. "Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and I still have much work to be done. We have more challenges to meet and more opportunities to pursue, including federal stimulus funding and the much anticipated regional military buildup," he said.

Despite the economic problems, Fitial said the CNMI still has promising Korean investments to realize, including the completion of the Kumho Asiana Lao Lao Bay Resort, the Flame Sako Resort & Spa project, and the Neo Gold Wings Paradise casino-resort project, which is scheduled to break ground on Tinian in June.

"We are looking forward to the investment commitment of Allegiance Capital and the planned Saipan shipyard project to take advantage of military buildup opportunities and create jobs for our residents," he said.

In Fitial's first SOCA in 2006, he said the government is broke. In 2007, he said the government is "still broke" and "better times" will take some time. Last year, he blamed the Legislature for the power crisis.

The Constitution requires the governor to report at least annually to the Legislature regarding the affairs of the CNMI and new measures that are necessary or desirable for the islands.

HOUSE

From Page 1

In his State of the Commonwealth Address yesterday, Fitial said he is disappointed that many members of the Legislature did not get behind his efforts to oppose federalization, "given the significant economic harm it presents the Commonwealth.

House Speaker Arnold Palacios said Fitial certainly has the prerogative to express his disappointment but "he's got to remember that all these individuals are also elected officials.

"And so they can also express their position and everyone certainly has the right to their perspective on the federalization issue," he said.

The Speaker said he has not changed his previous position on the issue.

"I am against the litigation from the very beginning primarily because I felt that a good faith effort could have been done to negotiate some of the regulations to implement. We didn't do that. The administration opted to immediately file the lawsuit," he said.

Palacios believes the filing of the lawsuit hampered policies, rules and regulations that could have been worked out to address the challenges the Commonwealth would have on this issue.

Rep. Diego Benavente said he still feels the same way about the lawsuit.

"There is no question, we agree with the impact and how it [federalization] affects us. But even from the very beginning we felt that working with the Obama administration in drafting the temporary regulations was a way in which we can work to reduce the hardships, the negative impact that it has. There is no question that it's going to affect us," said Benavente, who is chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations.

However, given that the CNMI has yet to see the regulations, Benavente said he would agree with the idea to further delay the implementation of the law.

A further delay, he added, might buy the CNMI the time necessary for the Department of Homeland Security to implement measures that would allow the Commonwealth continued access to the China and Russia markets.

REPORTERS'

From Page 1

11am. This was longer than his speech last year, which lasted 33 minutes.

■■■

This year's State of the Commonwealth Address was interrupted not by applauses but by two minor microphone mishaps.

The first was when Fitial was about to say that "Aggreko saved the CNMI from the dark and now we don't need Aggreko for much longer." The other one was when he said that federalization "puts our emerging education and education-tourism industry at risk."

■■■

The applause came only after the governor finished his address. The crowd in the House lobby was in standing ovation to applaud Fitial's address. Throughout the address, the crowd was silent and intent on understanding every word the governor would say.

■■■

The program started five minutes earlier than the 10am schedule, which is rare during government and private functions that do not start before or on the dot.

■■■

Only 24 of the 29 members of the 16th Legislature were present at the SOCA.

Senate Vice Pres. Felix T. Mendiola was sick, while Sen. Paul Manglona was in Honolulu, Hawaii to take care of his mother who is in grave medical condition.

Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, a gubernatorial candidate, was off island. Rep. Ed Salas was also off island for medical reasons. Also absent was Rep. David Apatang.

■■■

Lawmakers who came after the program started included Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider and Sen. Luis Crisostimo.

■■■

There were vacant reserved seats in the House chamber minutes after the program had already started.

■■■

The governor said more than $1 million, when he was supposed to say $100 million, referring to the revenue loss faced by the CNMI when it loses access to the Chinese and Russian markets due to federalization. After the governor's address, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos told Saipan Tribune that the governor misspoke the figure.

■■■

At one point, the master of ceremony, Joseph LG. Taijeron Jr., mistakenly addressed Fitial as lieutenant governor. Except for this slip, Taijeron did a good job in hosting the program.

■■■

When he was about to return to his seat at the end of his address, the governor shook hands with and then hugged Rep. Tina Sablan, whom he earlier described as "born with a stomachache," when the two had a spat over Fitial's praises of former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez who was convicted by a federal jury on corruption charges in April.

■■■

Toward the end of his address, the governor asked for God's help, which was not part of his prepared speech.

■■■

Fitial promised that tax refund and rebate checks will be out in about three weeks. The announcement made some government staff smile. One law enforcer immediately told *Saipan Tribune* to make sure to include in the news story the governor's quote about the three-week promise.

Judge finds probable cause against murder suspect

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court found probable cause yesterday to file murder charges against Ezra Kaainoa Deleon Guerrero for killing Korean businessman Jae Soung Shim during a robbery at a store in Tanapag.

At a preliminary hearing, Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered the 25-year-old Deleon Guerrero to answer the charges of two counts of murder in the first degree, one count of murder in the second degree, one count of robbery, and one count of assault with a dangerous weapon.

After hearing the testimony of the CNMI government's witness, reviewing the evidence presented, and hearing the arguments of counsel, Manglona said the prosecution presented enough evidence to establish probable cause that the offenses were committed and that the defendant committed these offenses.

No bail was imposed. Arraignment was set for Monday, June 1.

At the hearing, Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch called to the witness stand case officer Detective Chris Leon Guerrero.

Assistant Public Defender Douglas Hartig served as counsel for the defendant.

Police arrested Deleon Guerrero for the murder of the 65-year-old Shim after a robbery inside the victim's store in Tanapag last May 17.

A detective stated in his report that prior to the attack, a witness saw Deleon Guerrero put on a black ski mask and say: "This is good for Papa-san, no!" The witness stated that the suspect appeared drunk.

The suspect was later seen handing out bills to children at a house near Shim's store, New Star Market. A witness heard the defendant bragging he had just knocked out Papa-san.

Shim, also known as Papa-sang in Tanapag village, was reading something behind the cashier's counter when Deleon Guerrero allegedly entered and repeatedly hit him with a tangan-tangan stick on the head.

Autopsy showed that the victim sustained multiple skull fractures due to repeated blows to the head.

A police officer told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Shim's body was brought to South Korea Monday night. The victim's daughter, who is in Michigan, arrived on Saipan Sunday and left the following day to attend the funeral in Korea.

Man in 3rd largest 'ice' haul gets 15 yrs., 8 months prison sentence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court yesterday sentenced to 15 years and eight months a former garment worker who was found guilty in the third largest haul of methamphetamine hydrochloride or "ice" in the CNMI so far.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson said upon release from imprisonment, Yong Ming Song will be placed on a supervised release for 10 years.

Munson gave the 42-year-old Song credit for the time he has already served in jail.

Song was ordered to immediately pay a $100 special assessment fee.

After completing his prison sentence, Song will be delivered to an Immigration official for deportation proceedings.

If immediate deportation fails to occur and the defendant is released, Song shall immediately report to the U.S. Probation Office for supervised release, Munson said.

During the probationary period, Song will be required to perform 300 hours of community service.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto had recommended a sentence of 216 months in prison with supervised release, deportation, and a fine of $500,000 if the defendant is able to pay such a fine.

Joey San Nicolas, counsel for Song, moved for the mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison. He asked for a waiver on all fines due to the defendant's inability to pay any fines.

Last February, the jurors found Song guilty of possession of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school with intent to distribute. The jurors determined that the defendant had intended to distribute 149.4 grams of "ice."

Benedetto stated during the trial that 149 grams of "ice" worth between $60,000 to $75,000 were seized from Song's vehicle.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration special agent's report, Police Sergeant Anthony Macaranas and Police Officer Daniel Punimata had flagged down Song's car along Beach Road in San Jose on Sept. 11, 2008, after seeing him drive without a seatbelt.

Song's suspicious behavior prompted them to search the vehicle, where they found the illegal drug.

Song argued that he just picked up a package that a friend had asked him to get, not knowing that it contained illegal drugs.

Some govt positions eliminated in FY 2010 budget

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some government positions that are currently staffed are up for elimination based on the Fitial administration's proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget, but Rep. Ray N. Yumul said government agencies are given a chance to clarify their staffing needs.

Yumul, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, cited as an example the Department of Public Works that has some currently filled positions that are removed from the budget proposal.

"We noticed some positions were eliminated [under the budget proposal], but we're giving department heads an opportunity to see if they agree to remove or reinstate these positions," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune*.

Agencies have until the first week of June to sit down with the House Ways and Means Committee to share their concerns about the department budget reflected in the administration's proposal. An option is to send an electronic or original copy of their budget concerns by the first week of June.

Yumul said his office has so far received separate requests for meetings from the Judiciary, Saipan Mayor's Office, and the Public School System.

"The priority is to clarify their personnel needs, their personnel budget, and then their utility expenses, operations, and Retirement Fund contributions," said Yumul.

Yumul's committee and the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chaired by Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan have been reviewing the Fitial administration's proposed FY 2010 budget since its transmittal in April.

"If we don't receive anything from them, either a request for a meeting or document, until the first week of June, then we would assume that the governor's budget proposal is satisfactory to the agencies," Yumul added.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in his State of the Commonwealth Address yesterday, said the failure to pass a timely budget for Fiscal Year 2009 resulted in Moody's Investor Service's recent downgrading of the CNMI's bond rating.

The budget was passed five months into the fiscal year and the budget was achieved through a legislative override.

"More importantly, the budget was passed without the necessary austerity measures to cope with dwindling government collections. I again take this opportunity to call on the Legislature to pass needed austerity holidays to deal with our current budget challenge," Fitial said in his address.

Yumul, in an interview later, said the House Ways and Means Committee hopes to pass the budget earlier this year.

"We don't want that excuse anymore," said Yumul, referring to the late passing of the budget as the cause of the CNMI's bond rating.

Besides personnel concerns, the fiscal/ways and means committees also asked government department heads to report the number of hours of leave taken during calendar year 2008 to help in the review of the proposed budget.

On April 1, the Fitial administration proposed a $162.82 million budget for FY 2010, which runs from Oct. 1, 2009, to Sept. 30, 2010.

Earlier, Yumul's office found out that the government hired an administrative assistant, a clinical attendant, and a conservation technician right after the enactment of the FY 2009 budget that restricts hiring until Sept. 30, 2009, except for critical positions and replacement hires.

Yumul said more people may have been hired because the list from the Office of Personnel Management covered only between March 13 and April 21.

Rules of Chamorro writing up for review

There is a general assumption among parents that if their children are taught English at home, they will do better in school, but the head of the Chamorro-Carolinian Language Policy Commission says this is wrong.

Dave Omar said this misguided notion is the main cause of the massive decline in the number of children speaking the local dialects.

"We believe that parents should make the right adjustment," Omar said.

He said there is still hope for local dialects—Chamorro and Carolinian—to flourish just like in the old days.

"There are still some parents who maintain that they will teach their children the local language at home then let them learn English in school," said Omar.

As pat of efforts to reverse this declining trend, the CCLP will be holding a five-day seminar/workshop to review the rules of the Chammorro Orthography or the writing system of the local language.

"This is to see whether it is still applicable or it needs to be changed," said Omar.

The workshop has been set for July 7-11 but CCLPC is still making arrangements with some hotels for the venue.

CCLPC is currently preparing a grant assistance proposal from the Humanities Council for this project.

The project is in collaboration with Dr. Rita Inos, Dr. Liz Rechebei and Dr. Sandra Chang.

Invited participants will be the staff of CCLPC and members of the committee that is currently reviewing the Chamorro Dictionary.

Inos, Rechebei and Chang are coordinating that dictionary review committee.

It would be the first time that a review of the rules is made.

The Chammorro Orthography was established in 1973. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Congratulations
GRADUATES
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WORLD RESORT
SAIPAN
You deserve time away, relaxation and leisure, and lots of fun
May 29~31,2009
$120
FOR 4 PEOPLE
+1 INFANT
Sirena Promotion
. 1 night stay for 4 persons + 1 infant
. Complimentary breakfast for 2 at The World Buffet
. Unlimited use of Wave Jungle and sports activities
. Starting on the day of check-in until 5pm on check-out day
$200
FOR 4 PEOPLE
+1 INFANT
Weekend Getaway
. 2 night stay for 4 persons + 1 infant
. Complimentary breakfast for 2 at The World Buffet
. Unlimited use of Wave Jungle and sports activities
. Check-in Fri. @ 2pm, Check-out Sunday @ 12 noon w/ access to Wave Jungle until 5pm
Wave Jungle
plus... a special gift from us
GENERAL TERM CONDITIONS
. Age Description: 1 person, 3 years and above. Infant:0-2 years
. Offres applies to locals (includes residents of Saipan, Rota, Tinian and Guam)
. Proof of ID required
. Failure to provide such proof will result in the revision of the booking rate. Unrestricted rate available on the day of check-in
. Only registered guests may enter Wave Jungle facility
. 10% Goverment Tax is included
For Room Reservations please call: 234-5907

Only one candidate confirmed for Liberation Queen

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The economic crisis is taking its toll on the upcoming Liberation Day Queen pageant.

The organizing committee yesterday said they are having a hard time convincing prospective candidates to join the Liberation Queen contest because of the present economic condition.

Liberation Queen committee chair Rose T. Ada said only one of the four who had earlier submitted applications has confirmed her participation.

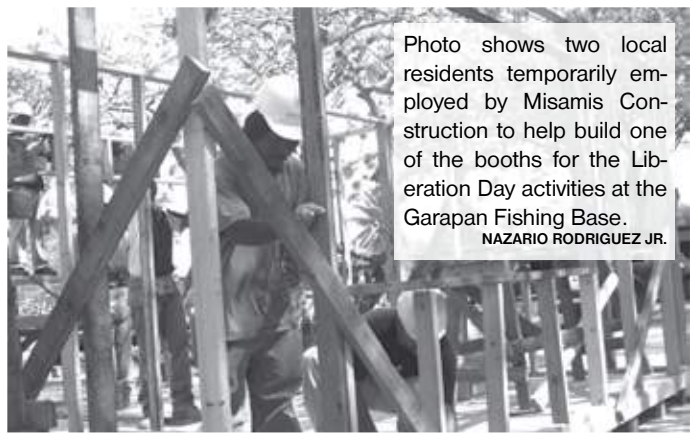


Photo shows two local residents temporarily employed by Misamis Construction to help build one of the booths for the Liberation Day activities at the Garapan Fishing Base.
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

"Some of the candidates want to back out from the competition because they are having difficulty selling tickets," Ada said.

The problem will be one of the main topics of discussion during the organizing committee's next meeting today at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Jack Omar of the Emergency Management Office is the overall chairman.

"We're inviting interested candidates to join," said Ada, who also chaired the Liberation Queen committee in 2003 and 2004.

Ada will be proposing to the organizing committee to allow candidates to ask private companies to sponsor them.

For the first time since 2004, the pageant is open to any ethnicity.

"We target at least six candidates and we are still optimistic that we can fill the slots before the deadline, which is two weeks before the coronation night on July 4," Ada said.

Meanwhile, organizing committee vice chair Isidoro Camacho said that they expect the contractor to finish the construction of booths and the main stage by June 4 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The monthlong celebration will kick off on June 5.

As of yesterday morning, Misamis Construction has completed about 28 booths for sellers.

There are a total of 30 concessions that have applied for the event.

Fund chair: Fitial fails to offer new solutions for NMI retirees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The chairman of the Retirement Fund board of trustees, Juan T. Guerrero, is disappointed with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's ultimate "solution" to the decade-old problems of the Commonwealth retirees.

In his State of the Commonwealth Address yesterday, Fitial had cited the importance of a pending omnibus bill intended to reform the Fund and the immediate suspension of the ongoing lawsuit that will determine the amount owed by the government to the Fund.

Guerrero said he was expecting the governor to announce alternative means of addressing the Retirement Fund problems but was disappointed to hear none.

"Other than endorsing the omnibus bill and asking for the suspension of the litigation, I didn't see or hear any other means to resolve the Fund issues. I was even expecting that some budget allocation or supplemental funding would be identified… but there was none," he said.

Fitial said the Fund's lawsuit squanders precious government resources and will not produce money for retirees.

"We all need to work together to find solutions to protect the Fund, with cooperation rather than confrontation. I urge all parties to suspend litigation and engage in good faith mediation to resolve these issues," the governor said.

Guerrero remained adamant about finishing the court case, claiming the board is not being confrontational with the Executive Branch.

"I don't think the Fund is confrontational; we're just doing our job. We need to proceed with this [lawsuit] for the best interest of the Fund and the retirees. We're not saying we will not negotiate…but only after the court decides and the payment has to be made by the central government. We will not withdraw the lawsuit," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Guerrero pointed out that the omnibus bill being touted by the governor contain reforms that were actually initiated by the Fund, in consultation with the many parties and the Legislature.

The chairman said the use of a lot of data to justify the governor's views does not reflect anything. "Paying the Fund… is more critical to us," he added.

Fitial reported that based on the Fund's own actuarial report, the liability of the Defined Benefit Plan program grew from $809 million in Oct. 1, 2000, to $1.007 billion by Oct. 1, 2005.

With decreasing government revenues, he said the Fund obligation would demand a greater portion of government resources and take away needed funding for essential public services.

He also cited the passage of Public Law 15-70 that reform the DBP and which decreased the liability from $1 billion to $879.3 million in October 2007.

"Our reform efforts, however, were dampened by the severe market downturn in 2008, and more needs to be done to save the Fund," the governor said.

Public education can help reduce the stigma of mental illness

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A sweeping public education program and training could help reduce the stigma of mental illness, according to Kaye Christian of the Mental Health Planning Council.

Christian said patients usually do not come out in the open because they are stigmatized from the beginning.

"But through education we can reduce that stigma," said Christian, who was the guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency.

She said patients need to know that with proper care and attitude, they can recover. But the lack of proper recovery facilities at the Commonwealth Health Center and an in-house psychiatrist are some of the biggest challenges.

Christian said mental health service in the CNMI is almost nonexistent, with only one psychiatrist serving all patients on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

At the same time, the CHC Psychiatric Unit only has eight beds that easily fill up during specific times of the year like the holidays, when stress factors are high.

There is no available number of patients in the Psychiatric Unit as they come and go, she said, "but there are more patients out there who refuse to go for check-up and treatment."

She said patients are usually just confined to their beds. There is a walled area outside that patients could use to breathe fresh air, but the place is hot.

To remedy this, Christian has initiated a project to beautify a walled section just outside the Psychiatric Unit, turning the area into a garden for the patients to enjoy.

"We've been raising funds for this," she said.

The area will be used by the patients for their recovery. "The patients need to breathe fresh air and not face the grim, high walls because this could add to their depression," Christian said.

The project will be completed soon with the assistance of the Northern Marianas Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services.

Jun Vicente Mihara Chong makes NMI proud at US Naval Academy

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ensign Jun Vicente Mihara Chong gets his cap during his graduation last week from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Midshipman Jun Vicente Mihara Chong graduated last week from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, earning the rank of Ensign and a bachelor's degree in Chemistry. President Barack Obama delivered the commencement address.

Chong accumulated an outstanding record at the Academy. He was on the Dean's List, Commandant's List, or Superintendent's List in every semester beginning with his Plebe year. Because of this exceptional record, Chong has been assigned to the prestigious Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida for training as a Naval Aviator.

Chong's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vicente T. Chong, were present at the ceremony as were his younger brother and his aunt Dolores from Washington State.

CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan also attended the graduation with members of his staff. "Ensign Chong is a source of pride for all of us from the Northern Mariana Islands," he said. "It was a wonderful moment when Jun Chong's name was called, and we watched him go on stage to shake President Obama's hand and receive his diploma.

"Ensign Chong embodies that 'Yes We Can' attitude that all our young citizens should emulate."

Chong was widely recognized for his leadership skills at the academy. He served as a company drill sergeant, plebe summer company executive officer, squad leader, and drill officer. His natural charisma and energy were a great motivator to his classmates and a significant factor in the achievements of Fourth Company, of which he was a member, over the past four years.

Chong is not the only academy student from the Marianas. Jake Tenorio, grandson of "Pinko" Tenorio and nephew of former Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio, is a member of the class of 2012.

"Ensign Chong was nominated to the Academy by Resident Representative Pete Tenorio," said Kilili. "It was certainly apparent today what a good choice he made in selecting Jun Chong."

Kilili, as the CNMI congressman, takes on the responsibility of making nominations to the U.S. military academies. The next open slot is at the Air Force Academy. Nominations will be made in January 2010.

Sablan has also introduced legislation in the U.S. Congress that would increase the number of persons from the CNMI who may attend the academies. ***(PR)***

American Red Cross

Super CPR Saturday

- Date: June 6, 2009 Saturday
- Time: 8:00AM-12:00PM
- Venue: Multipurpose Bldg. in Susupe
- Participants Fee: $5
  Regular Price for CPR class is $35
- Student Fee: $2 (valid student ID needed)

Call NMI Chapter at 234-3459 for reservations
Hurry sign up today... space limited to 100 participants
First come first serve basis. Must be present for entire class to receive certification.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- The Estate of SOLEDAD K. SOMORANG, Deceased, and SUSAN K. SOMORANG, Defendants. : CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0476

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 5, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 005 1 548, situated in Koblerville, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 885 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 2084 82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 14232 on May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 10, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 21st day of May, 2009:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- JOHN KITALONG SIKYANG and MERCEDES JONES CASTRO Defendants. : CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-419

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 22, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 045 A 12, situated in As Matuis, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 944 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 045 A 002 dated July 12, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1670, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 10, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 21st day of May, 2009:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Report: 286 students leave public high schools yearly

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A tracking report completed by the Public School System disclosed that nearly 300 students leave public high schools every year, reducing the number of cohort students expected to graduate four years later.

Cohorts are students who enroll in Grade 9 at various public high schools on Tinian, Rota and Saipan and go on to finish Grade 12 after four straight years.

Public school records showed that, from school year 2001-2008, an average of 286 students leave high school each year.

Additionally, the average number of students who graduated from PSS during the eight-year period is 575 annually.

"The average percentage of cohort students that graduated between 2001 and 2008 is 65 percent," the PSS report stated.

Yesterday, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said the decline in the number of cohorts is attributed to the significant volume of high school students who relocate off island with their families due to the bad economy of the Commonwealth.

"A lot of our students exited public schools due to relocation of their families while other students moved out from our schools and transferred to other schools," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

School dropouts also add to the high rate of decline in cohorts.

PSS records showed that of the 761 ninth graders enrolled in school year 2001, only 415 completed and graduated from their high school. Almost the same figure was noted in school year 2002 when there were 422 graduates of the 746 registered in all five public high schools.

In school year 2003-2004, high school enrollment posted a significant increase of almost a hundred students. However, only 575 of the 848 enrollees that year completed their secondary education four years later.

A slight increase in enrollment for high school was recorded in SY 2004-2005 when PSS accommodated a total of 861 ninth graders. Of this number, only 614 completed high school after four years.

A total of 906 high school students were enrolled in the following school year but only 670 graduated four years later.

In 2006, the number continued to drop, with only 643 cohort graduates out of the registered 931 in the same year.

PSS recorded last school year the highest number of ninth-grade enrollees at 979. Of the figure, PSS noted only 690 students who graduated in the cohorts.

Although actual data for the present school year is still unavailable, Sablan expressed optimism that the number will not show a significant decline.

PSS early this year terminated its Advanced Development Institute, a program that assists dropouts complete their high school education and obtain a diploma.

She encouraged students who "exited" the system for one reason or another to enroll in the Adult Basic Education program offered at the Northern Marianas College.

Census: Guam economy grew by 36 percent between 2002, 2007

ON THE NET

http://www.census.gov/econ/islandareas/index.html

Guam's economy generated $6.2 billion in sales in 2007, up from $4.6 billion in 2002, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2007 Economic Census of Island Areas.

The economic census profiles Guam's economy every 5 years.

In 2007, Guam had 3,143 businesses with paid employees. These businesses employed 52,394 people and accounted for $1.1 billion in annual payroll. This compares with 2002, when Guam had 2,926 employer businesses, with 43,104 employees and an annual payroll of $846 million.

The 2007 census data include statistics for Guam and its 19 election districts for businesses with paid employees.

Guam is a U.S. territory in the western Pacific Ocean.

Other findings:

■ In 2007, the retail trade sector in Guam accounted for $1.6 billion in sales, employed 8,219 people and paid $150 million in annual payroll. This compared with 2002, when the sector saw sales of $1.3 billion, employed 7,402 people and had an annual payroll of $123 million.

■ The largest share of retail sales in Guam was found in general merchandise stores ($334 million) and food and beverage stores ($327 million). In 2002, general merchandise stores sales were $299 million and food and beverage stores sales were $259 million.

■ Businesses in the Tamuning election district reported $3.6 billion in total sales — more than 57 percent of total sales in 2007, compared with $2.7 billion in 2002.

■ Guam had 193 businesses with 50 or more employees in 2007, representing 6 percent of all businesses. These businesses accounted for 57 percent ($3.6 billion) of total sales. In 2002, there were 169 businesses with 50 or more employees, accounting for $2.2 billion in total sales.

These data for Guam are available through the Census Bureau's American FactFinder, an online data tool that allows users to access, filter, manipulate and extract data. Data for the Northern Mariana Islands were released in March 2009. Data for the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa and Puerto Rico will be released between July 2009 and September 2010.

More information about the Economic Census of Island Areas is available at http://www.census.gov/econ/islandareas/index.html. ***(U.S. Census Bureau)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Parole and Revocation Hearing** is scheduled for **June 09, 2009, (Tuesday)** beginning at **9:00 a.m., at the Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room,** Susupe, Saipan. The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll call
3. Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Adoption of Parole Hearing Minutes - February 18 & 19, 2009

III. Parole Application	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1. Jeffery Cabrera	09-002	06-0212C
2. Chun Shan Xu	09-005	02-0104
3. Antonio W. Nekaifes	09-006	08-0136/06-0116
4. Romeo L. Romolor	09-007	06-0225R
5. Ivan T. Dela Cruz	09-008	08-0044/06-0263

IV. Revocation	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1. Marlon Martin	07-004	04-0282

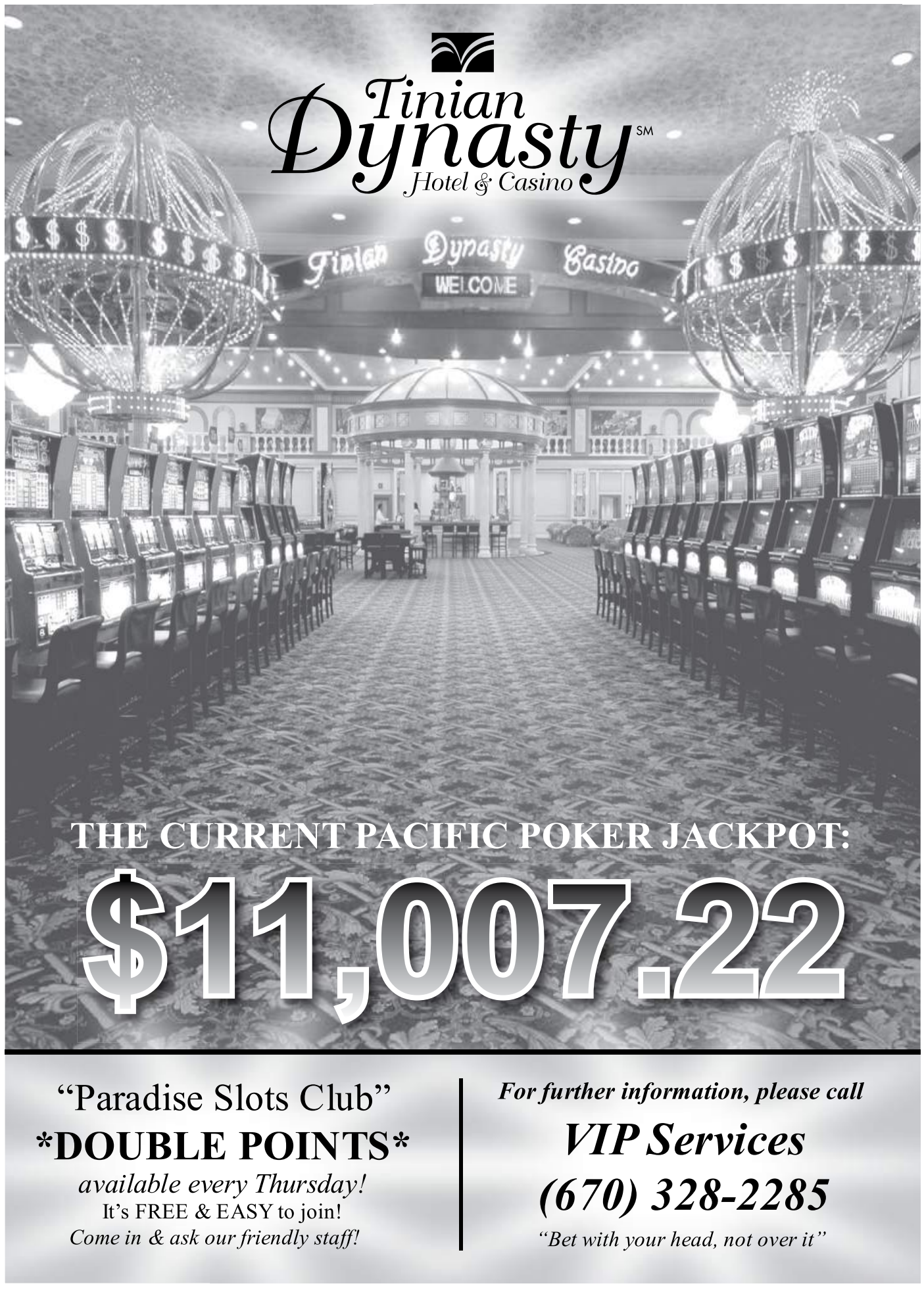
V. Miscellaneous	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1. Dewayne Sibetang	05-019	00-0164D
re: Psychiatric Evaluation Report		

VI. Adjournment

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

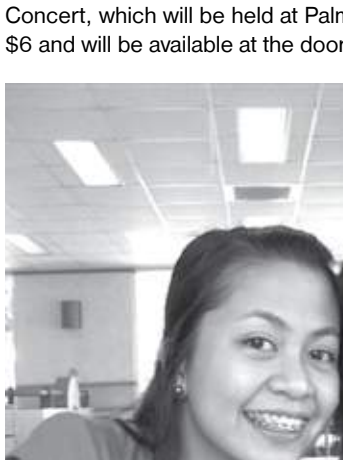
/s/ Ramond B. Camacho
Chairman, Board of Parole

May 22, 2009



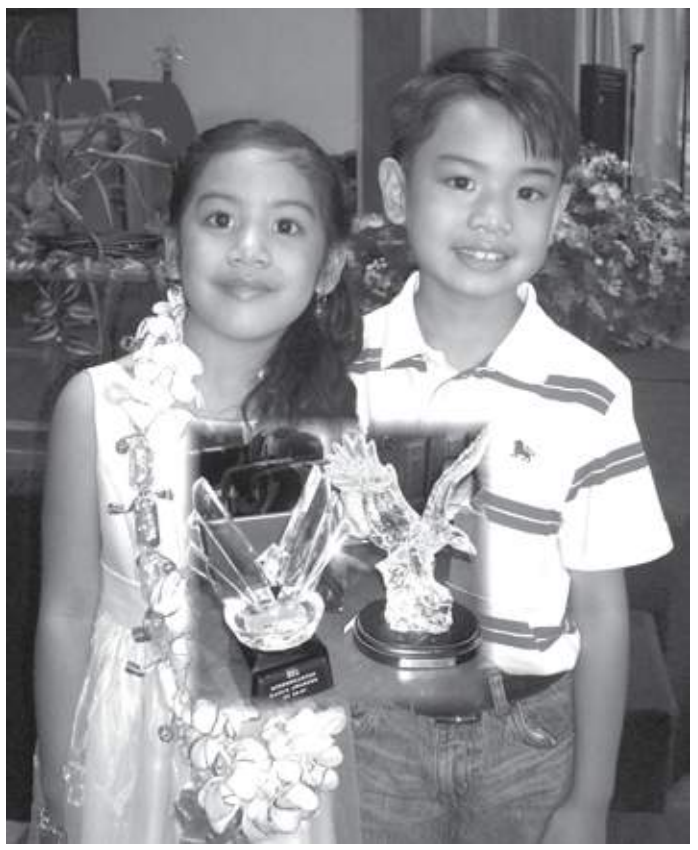
FUNDRAISING CONCERT
Older students of Glushko's Academy are practicing for their first performance using pointé shoes. The Academy is having its Annual Fundraising Concert, which will be held at Palms Resort Saipan on May 31, Sunday at 7pm. General sponsor of event is Palms Resort Saipan. Tickets are $6 and will be available at the door at Palms Resort.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SISTER ACT
Camille, right, poses with sister Ceejay Samonte, who is enjoying her vacation in Saipan. Ceejay Samonte just arrived from the Philippines via Guam for a vacation after graduating from La Consolacion College of Manila. This is her third time to spend her vacation here. Welcome to Saipan Ceejay and enjoy your vacation! Greetings come from your Dad and Sis Jaja.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



HONOR STUDENT
Congratulations to Jaiden Sabugo for being the 1st honorable mention in her Kindergarten class of school year 2008-2009 at the Grace Christian Academy Saipan. Greetings come from her cousin Emman, sister Geneva, and family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Birthday greetings go out to Jasmin May Cordova, who is celebrating her birthday today, May 29. "Thank you for being such a wonderful person, stay as sweet as you are! Have a wonderful birthday! We love you, friend." From your good friends at Toothworks.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



EAGLE AWARDEES
Congratulations to Heather Angel M. Pangilinan, who graduated K5 at Grace Christian Academy on May 26, 2009. Heather graduated with Salutatorian honors and was also an Eagle Awardee, GCA's most prestigious award. Heather carries on a Pangilinan family tradition, with her brother, Martin Angelo, right, also getting the Eagle Award during last year's ceremonies. Congratulations coming from your ninang, Susan, and your family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Jack "Golandra" Kiyoshi, who is celebrating his birthday today. "Have a safe trip to DC! We'll celebrate when you get back! Take care and God bless!" From all your friends and family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 28, 1999

AGO begins probe of consumer prices
Backing move to probe consumer prices on the island, the Attorney General's Office has assured legislators that an investigation has started into claims of excessive shipping charges by carriers serving the CNMI which may have pushed the cost of importing goods here. But the AGO said it has met difficulties in pressing the matter due to the financial crisis that has prevented them from hiring outside lawyers who could help them bring the case to federal authorities as well as to the U.S. Congress. "Outside counsel is necessary in this matter as the Attorney General's office simply does not have the manpower or other resources necessary to pursue such a case," said Assistant Attorney General David Lochabay in a letter Rep. Melvin Faisao.

CNMI finds ally in Young
U.S. House Resources Committee Chairman Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) has defended the Northern Marianas against proposals to slap tariffs on its garment exports to the mainland, calling them "outdated and not constructive" in dealing with the problems confronting the island. He said taking away the trade privileges granted the Commonwealth would hurt the local economy and lead to more federal doleouts to the island which has managed to become self-sufficient unlike other U.S. territories. Young underscored findings of his committee, which deals with island issues, during their visit to the CNMI last February, saying its garment industry should not be blamed for most of the labor problems here.

May 28, 2001

Graduates asked to seek local employment
A fresh batch of Northern Marianas College graduates were greeted Saturday with a new challenge that poses to eliminate what is perceived to be an outdated system of employment in the local scene. Public Auditor Mike Sablan, the keynote speaker during NMC's 20th graduation rites, urged 142 successful students to wrestle with an employment system which he said is driven by wrong stereotypes of local graduates and resident workers. "Your graduation charges you with a new responsibility. It's more than just a graduation today and a job tomorrow. It also means to change past and outdated employment practices," said Mr. Sablan.

'Stop charging for waterless days'
The House of Representatives asking the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to stop collecting payment from consumers for the days when water delivery services are not available. In a letter, Rep. William S. Torres asked CUC to map out a mechanism that would allow commercial and residential consumers to offset credit on monthly flat rate during the days when water supply is interrupted. This, even as CUC officials said customers who receive water 24 hours a day naturally pay a higher premium than those like Garapan, who only have it every other day.

May 28, 2002

Saipan streets named this year
The Saipan Mayor's Office yesterday assured residents that roads and houses on the island will be named and numbered before the year ends. This, as contractor Henry K. Pangelinan and Associates completed negotiations for the procurement of materials that will be used for street signs and names, Mayor Juan B. Tudela disclosed in an interview. Tudela said the long-delayed Saipan street-naming project will be completed within the year, adding that the project was awarded right after the release of the $600,000 funding.

NY experts mull aiding NMI in fight against youth suicides
Psychology experts from the Columbia University in New York City are now considering providing their services to the CNMI for free in a bid to help the Commonwealth stem the rise in suicide among its youths. Commonwealth Health Center psychiatrist Anthony Andrew Bottone, MD told Gov. Juan N. Babauta in a letter that he has been in touch with some of his colleagues at the Columbia University and they are now thinking of helping out, as long as there is community support and local implementation of the project in coordination with the CHC's Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics. Bottone explained that these experts have already developed a sophisticated suicide prevention program employing screening tools and training of school and clinic personnel.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

No crisis for North Korea

North Korea's detonation of a nuclear warhead in an underground test this week is, of course, cause for serious concern—particularly as the blast appears to have been considerably larger than the regime's first test nearly three years ago. It is certainly cause for swift action by the U.N. Security Council, which issued a statement condemning Pyongyang's blatant violations of previous council resolutions, and promised to prepare yet another resolution—though, as always, the prospect that truly tough sanctions will be adopted is not bright.

What Kim Jong Il's latest provocation should not cause, however, is the response he is seeking: a rush by the Obama administration to lavish attention on his regime and offer it economic and political favors. That approach has already been tried by two U.S. administrations, which handed Pyongyang a string of bribes in exchange for ceasing its provocations, suspending its nuclear activities and entering negotiations. In each case, the North failed to fulfill its commitments and eventually returned to producing weapons and testing missiles.

It's time, at last, to break this pattern and call Mr. Kim's bluff. That doesn't mean threats of U.S military action or a blanket refusal to talk with the regime; those tactics have been tried and have failed as well. Instead, Mr. Obama should simply decline to treat North Korea as a crisis, or even as a matter of urgency. The United States should press for the toughest sanctions it can extract from the Security Council and ratchet up its own measures, including a renewed squeeze on the regime's access to the international financial system. It should seek greater support from South Korea, China and other nations to block the North's attempts to export missiles or nuclear materials, and to help refugees fleeing the regime. It should stand ready to resume the "six-party" talks with North Korea sponsored by China and to engage in separate, low-level bilateral discussions if they offer the hope of progress.

There should, however, be no new economic favors to the North, no further political recognition, no grand visits by the secretary of state to Pyongyang. Mr. Kim, who is 67 and ailing, and who appears to be attempting to shore up his authority so as to hand it to one of his sons, should get nothing to help him with that project. Instead, to the extent possible, his regime should be undramatically but methodically strangled by sanctions—and any easing should be linked to concrete steps by the North. A starting point must be the release of two American journalists whom Mr. Kim is holding hostage and threatening to put on trial next week. "Such provocations," Mr. Obama said of the nuclear test, "will only serve to deepen North Korea's isolation." U.S. policy should aim at ensuring that this prediction proves true.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

"WE ARE NOT A COLLECTION OF RED STATES AND BLUE STATES— WE ARE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."
—BARACK OBAMA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
KOTERBA

Mona Lisa *Wo Yao Ni*

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Kitty corner from the Hua Shi Bai Business Hotel a block from the Dandong Railway Station is a big picture of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa with all her famed enigmatic smile, at once seductive and innocent, occupying the façade of the second and third floors of the corner building. This is an advertisement for prized tiles, a rather strange brand name for a fancy interior design material.

At nine in the evening, our 3-star hotel room telephone rang and I asked my 16-year-old roommate to answer since none of the hotel staff spoke English in this Liaoning city across the Yalu river from North Korea (maybe, there are English speakers in the 5-star hotels by the river since not only are there English billboards, the signage pattern from street to store front is bilingual in an economy trying to serve the English-dominated global market).

After a couple of words, he handed the telephone to me. An English speaking male voice at the end said, "Would you like to have company for the night, sir?"

This service offering has become customary in many hotels around the world, though it usually starts with an in-house massage service promo. My solicitous 73-year-old host, a veteran engineer supervisor with a state-run dairy service, understood and discreetly offered to pay for the cost. I did not feign surprise because I wasn't, though I minded my manners and declined the offer.

Not too long ago, I wrote about the "Ladies of Shenyang," and the inordinate number of workers coming from the three provinces of Manchuria (Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang) as well as Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces near Shanghai in our Saipan bars and clubs. I suggested that since these places were where most of our garment factory ladies came from, with occasional stragglers from Shenzhen between Guangzhou and HK, and Chengdu in Sichuan, many of them lured into paying exorbitant fees for promises of working in the U.S. on fake three-year contracts, especially prior to the industry's sunset in 2005, the demographic change into predominantly Chinese among sex workers is not a surprise.

The verb "shanghai'd" not only referred to what happened to able-bodied male workers lured into inebriation in the wharves of Shanghai only to wake up in the high seas heading toward fields in California, it also referred to the practice of Jiangsu and Zhejiang fathers selling their "valueless and burdensome"' daughters into bonded servitude to traders in Shanghai and Tianjin, the trade evolving into actual kidnapping of young girls to be sex workers in historically libertine Manchuria. The notorious comfort women established by the Japanese for ces was, at the start, ethnically sensitive—Japanese ladies for the *Nippons* and Korean ladies for the *Hanggul*—but given the nature of the service, it swiftly deteriorated into crimes of involuntary human trafficking of the worst kind.

A recent bestseller from the prolific Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho is an engaging novel titled *Eleven Minutes*, which opens with, "Once upon a time, there was a prostitute named Maria." Not unlike many of our Saipan ladies of the night, Maria turns intentionally clinical and objective about the profession and makes it work for her in Switzerland. Coelho, however, follows the romantic pattern of a medieval morality play (the religious allusion re Maria is not accidental) of the *Dulcinea* led astray by fate but meets her destiny and live happily ever after.

A current movie, *The Girlfriend Experience*, offers a more realistic portrayal of the profession, using the neutral and preferred term "sex worker," by members of the profession who, in some settings, actively lobby for safer and healthier working conditions, a more cooperative structure of employment and benefits, etc., not dissimilar to union demands in other professions. It is by no means a purely pro sex-work propaganda, though given its subject matter, I do not expect to see it in our Saipan Hollywood theatre anytime soon. On the other hand, Google "escort service" in any major city anywhere and the high end of this trade is evidently qualitatively well-staffed.

A colleague who followed my House of Horus series termed it "salacious" compared to my musings during the Lenten season, meditating on images of the Triune formula of the Christian deity and the ecclesiology of its piety. But on HoH, I did urge a non-judgmental and amoral perspective (as contrasted to "immoral") on the practice and profession, something that is difficult for many people who live in neat two-universes and lead split personalities.

I was reminded of a colleague from outside Topeka, Kansas. A Methodist and a Rotarian, he was vehemently opposed to the establishment of a watering hole at the county line on the grounds that it would encourage alcoholism and prostitution. Where else would I bump into him but in one of the gentlemen's club in Topeka? "I do not mind the business, or the services they bring, but I'll be darned if I will have it in my neighborhood," he zealously exclaimed.

Well, in Dandong, I am certain the Mona Lisa smile is proffered at various places after 9pm. And I am equally certain, many are paying not for quality tiles but for quality time; it would not surprise me if genuine pleasure abounds. As for the meaning of *wo yao ni,* ask a Chinese friend. I said ask, I didn't say tell; let's keep your virgin face intact.

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Seeing backwards

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

King Arthur's adviser and wizard, Merlin, was said to have the prophetic ability to see future events. Merlin's origins are shrouded in mythology and further confused by the myriad of chroniclers through the centuries who have added their own interpretation to the stories of King Arthur and his Knights. According to one legend, Merlin was born as an old man and aged backwards, thus his ability to see what others thought was the future was actually a recollection of his past.

If we told you that you could become your own wizard by imagining the future look and feel of something that you want to achieve, and then seeing backwards, would you be interested? Business consultant Paul Lemberg calls this the "Merlin Method," and he believes it can help you do something that you've never thought about doing before. The reason for this is because there are some things that you would like to do, but you might have no idea how you can achieve the outcome.

To effectively apply the Merlin Method, your first task is to imagine that you are standing at the end of a timeline where you have achieved your goal. Describe what it looks like and feels like to you. Now, look backwards and visualize the specific action steps you took on the timeline and the resources that you used to get you there by asking this question: "Just before I achieved this goal, what was the last significant thing that had to happen?"

Once you answer that question, you simply keep asking this same question over and over and writing the response: "What was the last significant thing that had to happen before reaching this step?"

As you write the responses to the questions, you'll create a process, or a series of action steps that end with the first step you must take that will lead to the achievement of the goal. This now becomes your roadmap for success. The only thing you need to do now is outline the people and resources needed to achieve each step. You can also determine the amount of time and any deadlines for the steps so you can reach your goal in a timely manner.

Now why is this process more effective than just starting at the beginning and moving toward the end? This is how people usually plan, but one of the problems is that people tend to leave important steps out because they often internalize the process and forget things that are either critical or trivial. Seeing backwards helps avoid leaving out those steps.

This process can be used for professional, personal, or political purposes. If you're planning a family trip, imagine you and your family at the final destination and start asking the series of questions: "What was the last significant thing that had to happen before you got there?" You may have to rent a car, purchase airline tickets, get passports, pack, get online to learn about the place or get directions, etc.

The process can even be used to help improve the overall economy of the CNMI. There have been many visioning conferences and meetings that look at desirable future goals for the CNMI. It's a no-brainer that tourism is our best hope to improve the economy, but what are the specific steps we must take to make it a reality. Using the Merlin Method, the first step is to imagine a desirable future vision. This is more than just cranking out statistics of the number of tourists from various countries; it involves creating the future look and sensory experience that will compel visitors to travel to the Marianas. This also requires an understanding of the needs and wants of each target market. Once a collective future look and feel is envisioned and agreed upon, begin seeing backwards on the timeline until the last action step is determined. This then becomes the first step to realize the vision.

By working backwards from the achievement of the goal, you develop a timeline that has essential milestones. For your business, it creates a set of tactical actions that are necessary for you to realize your strategy. Bring key people together to brainstorm the steps and you'll be working from the collective knowledge and wisdom of all the participants. There may be subtle, but essential steps that others discover and that could make a major difference when the plan is set in motion.

To make sure your plan is workable, think it through forwards to make sure the achievement of each milestone will produce the result you desire. Also, determine if you have the proper resources to realize each step, and if not, find ways to get the resources or develop alternative steps. This method will allow you to create a process to achieve any goal you can imagine. As Napoleon Hill stated in his classic book, *Think and Grow Rich*: "Whatever the mind of man can conceive, and believe, it can achieve." The Merlin Method gives you the process to create steps from the conception of a goal to its ultimate achievement, all you need to do is believe in the future and see it backwards.

Letters to the Editor

Competitive election

As a member of the Association of Commonwealth Teachers, I want to urge all PSS teachers in the Commonwealth that every one of us has a self-interested stake in the decisions that affect implementation of education within the CNMI. The relationship of the officers of ACT with you, the rank and file, and with PSS central administration and with the Board of Education is critical to the direction education will take in the immediate future and in next several years in the CNMI.

For those who are unaware of the workings of ACT, it is important that we, the teachers who work on the ground in the classrooms of PSS, know that all PSS teaching staff are affected, both directly and indirectly, by the quality of the leadership of ACT. It is your organization. Choosing strong officers for the Association now can have a positive and real impact as the Association gains traction on our ability as teachers to implement the educational services we've been hired to deliver. Unbeknownst to many, during the past two years, under the presidency of Betty Miller, the ACT has been instrumental in opening discussion with the BOE about many crucial issues, including the legitimacy of HQT status and scores, the directions SBA testing should take, supplemental compensation for teachers with special issues and many other matters related to our employment with PSS.

At this point, Sam Joyner is running unopposed in the upcoming ACT election for a two-year term to be president of the Association of Commonwealth Teachers. Sam Joyner is a very able candidate to fill Betty Miller's shoes as her current term as ACT president expires. Mr. Joyner's forthrightness and tenacity as a leader are admirable. His track record of skillful negotiation deserves respect. His concern and dedication to resolving issues facing teachers in the CNMI are unquestionable.

But it is important to note that over the past two years, current president Betty Miller has developed a very effective rapport with the BOE. Her skills have been the major force in creating the success that ACT has had in producing many recent constructive outcomes for teachers. Ms. Miller's finesse in negotiating hard issues belies her toughness. She is a tiger who pursues balanced results and practical solutions to the issues that challenge implementation of education in the CNMI.

With her many unprecedented accomplishments in mind, it is clear that Betty Miller has been highly effective in representing the interests of all teachers in the CNMI, with the PSS central administration and with Board of Education. Her leadership has been tireless and effective. Without disparagement and with all respect to the current lone candidate for the top position of ACT, but also in the interest of making the ACT election competitive and credible, I urge that Betty Miller be seriously considered along with Mr. Joyner as a viable *write-in candidate* for the office of president of the Association of Commonwealth Teachers. Remember, every teacher in the CNMI is eligible to vote in the coming ACT election. Therefore, I urge every teacher, whether you are an active ACT member or not, to participate by voting for a preferred candidate to assure that we elect strong ACT officers who will represent our interests to PSS central and to the BOE.

When the results are in, regardless of whether Sam Joyner, Betty Miller or any other candidate is elected president of the Association, a competitive election will signal the Board of Education that ACT is a vital Association that represents the interests of teacher across the CNMI. A competitive election between two strong candidates will assure that ACT maintains its credibility and effectiveness while continuing to build on the gains it has made for teachers over the last two years.

Kenneth Hodson Oharnett
Marianas High School, Saipan

'Disturbing and unnecessary'

A letter to the editor by DOI Field Representative Jeff Schorr that was printed in the May 27, 2009 issues of the *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety* incorrectly stated that I misinterpreted DOI Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Nik Pula's testimony to believe that he requested a delay of PL 110-229. I was at the oversight hearing and listened to Mr. Pula's testimony. I also read his testimony and clearly understand what he stated.

On my website and in responses to questions asked by a reporter, I stated that I found a request for a delay in the reporting on recommendations for status of alien workers made by DOI's Nik Pula, and a request for a delay in the implementation of PL 110-229 made by Governor Fitial to be disturbing. Yes, I find both of these requests disturbing!

Perhaps I did not make myself clear in my remarks. I clearly understand that Mr. Pula was *not* asking for a delay in the implementation of PL 110-229, but a delay in the report that is due to Congress. From his testimony:

"Public Law 110-229 calls for a report and recommendations on the status of long-term foreign workers by the Secretary of the Interior (in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and Governor of the CNMI), by May 8, 2010. Specifically, the report will include -

- *the number of aliens in the CNMI,*
- *their legal status,*
- *the length of the aliens' stays in the CNMI,*
- *the CNMI economy's need for foreign workers, and*
- *recommendations, if deemed appropriate, whether or not legal foreign workers in the CNMI on May 8, 2008, should be able to apply for long-term status under United States law…*

... Recently, the Secretary of DHS utilized legislative authority to delay the transition period effective date by 180 days to November 28, 2009. There is, however, no equivalent statutory authority to delay Interior's report on long-term foreign workers. If there is only five months of administration before the report is due, as the current timeframe would require, insufficient data and other factors may make the completion of a meaningful report difficult. In addition, we are anticipating that status adjustments of some foreign workers will need to be made, potentially increasing the time it will take to complete the report beyond the one year originally allowed for in Public Law 110-229. These factors may make it difficult for Interior and its partners to parse desirable immigration policy and long-term foreign worker issues in an abbreviated timeframe.

The Department of the Interior, therefore, requests that the Congress extend the statutory date for the report on long-term foreign workers by one year to May 8, 2011."

My response is this: The federal government knew what deadlines PL 110-229 specified a year ago, and knew what statistics and data were needed to compile the required report. A year after the law has passed is late to be worrying how a deadline will be met. The federal agencies charged with making recommendations in the form of a report to Congress by May 8, 2010, need to get to work immediately, organize with the other federal agencies, and gather the statistics and data instead of proposing a delay!

There are not 100,000,000, or 1,000,000, or 50,000 or *even* 25,000 nonresidents in the CNMI. The federal government could use GAO experts, hire an outside consultant or firm, or have DHS begin registration of nonresidents to compile needed data. A delay in the report will perpetuate needless uncertainty and hardship for all of the nonresidents and for the CNMI community at large.

I have much respect for Nik Pula. He is a fine person and I am sure is not motivated by any ill will. However, I strongly disagree with his stand on this issue, and yes, I find his request to Congress for a delay in making recommendations on status of long-term guest workers disturbing and unnecessary.

Wendy L. Doromal
via e-mail

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

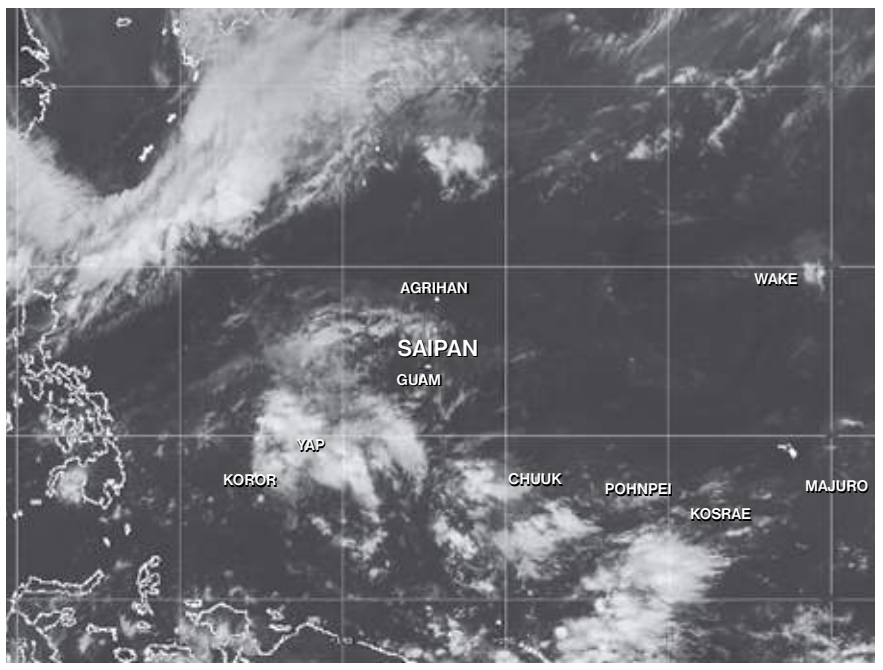
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲61	▼51
Beijing	Showers	▲81	▼61
Hong Kong	Showers	▲82	▼77
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲82	▼72
London	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲74	▼60
Manila	Rain	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲58	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼74
New York	Thundershowers	▲75	▼63
Osaka	Rain	▲73	▼64
Paris	Cloudy	▲66	▼52
Pusan	Sunny	▲79	▼62
Rome	Sunny	▲82	▼60
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼51
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲71	▼55
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼59
Tokyo	Rain	▲74	▼63
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲83	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northeastward from 3N135E to 9N141E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms can be found over Yap within 150 miles of a line extending from 4N144E to 13N135E. Another surface trough extends northward from EQ153 to 7N153E. Convergence near the trough axis is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Kosrae and Pohnpei or south of line from 3N150E to 5N154E to 6N160E to 3N163E. Low-level convergence southeast of a mid-latitude trough north of the discussion area is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 75 miles of a line extending from 21N152E to 25N155E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:43 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:13 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:53 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:18 AM	10:34 PM
Friday	10:21 AM	11:22 PM
Saturday	11:20 AM	
Sunday	12:15 PM	12:06 AM
Monday	1:09 PM	12:46 AM

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CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	3,795.300 Up 13.700 (0.36%)
HONG KONG	17,877.74 Up 886.18 (5.22%)
JAKARTA	1,894.49 Up 36.904 (1.99%)
TOKYO	9,438.77 Up 127.96 (1.37%)
K. LUMPUR	1,051.63 Down 1.51 (-0.14%)
MANILA	2,356.38 Up 46.70 (2.02%)
SINGAPORE	2,272.45 Up 12.09 (0.53%)
SEOUL	2,300.50 Up 61.71 (2.76%)
BANGKOK	552.82 Up 10.13 (1.87%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	8,473.49 196.17
NASDAQ	1,750.43 0.00
S&P	910.33 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2714
British Pound	0.6255
Canadian Dollar	1.1145
Chinese Renminbi	6.8304
Euro	0.7159
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7532
Indian Rupee	47.6420
Indonesian Rupiah	10,325.0000
Japanese Yen	95.2500
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5046
New Zealand Dollar	1.6089
Philippine Peso	47.3300
Singapore Dollar	1.4488
South Korean Won	1,269.3500
Swiss Franc	1.0846
Taiwan Dollar	32.5690
Thailand Baht	34.4100

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

US likely taking majority ownership of GM

NEW YORK (AP)—In the end, General Motors' massive cash needs likely trumped any chance of the automaker avoiding a bankruptcy court-supervised reorganization.

General Motors Corp. is expected to announce early Wednesday that only a small fraction of the holders of its $27 billion in bonds agreed to swap that unsecured debt for a 10 percent equity share of a recapitalized GM.

Reaching such an agreement was one of the requirements of the Obama administration, which already has committed $19.4 billion in aid and said it would only provide more funds if bondholders and unionized workers made concessions that substantially reduced GM's costs.

There was a small hope Tuesday that GM could avoid a bankruptcy filing when the United Auto Workers union disclosed that it would take a 20 percent stake in GM—down from the original plan of 39 percent. That seemingly would have allowed the Detroit-based company to sweeten the pot for its recalcitrant bondholders.

But GM's need for as much as $50 billion in additional financing from the government means instead that the government's stake will probably rise from 50 percent to as much as 70 percent, according to The Wall Street Journal. In exchange for the roughly $8 billion in aid it is expected to pony up as well, the Canadian government also will likely receive a small stake in the automaker.

Such an arrangement would leave bondholders back where they started—and a Chapter 11 filing all but certain. The deadline for GM's bondholders to tender their debt was midnight Tuesday. If bondholders representing 90 percent of GM's unsecured debt—about $24 billion—didn't agree to the exchange, GM has said it will file for bankruptcy protection.

Meanwhile, crosstown rival Chrysler LLC heads to court Wednesday to ask a bankruptcy judge for permission to sell the bulk of its assets to a group headed by Italy's Fiat Group SpA in hopes of saving itself from liquidation. Attorneys for Chrysler maintain that the Fiat deal is the company's only hope to avoid being sold off piece by piece, but car dealers, bondholders, former employees and others are protesting what they see as the government speeding Chrysler through the bankruptcy process without regard for certain creditors.

AP

In this Dec. 12, 2008 file photo, the General Motors logo is seen outside the GM headquarters in downtown Detroit.

Chrysler heads to court for key bankruptcy hearing

NEW YORK (AP)—The future of Chrysler hangs in the balance as it heads to court Wednesday to ask a bankruptcy judge for permission to sell the bulk of its assets to a group headed by Italy's Fiat in hopes of saving itself from liquidation.

Attorneys for Chrysler LLC maintain that the deal with Fiat Group SpA is the company's only hope to avoid being sold off piece by piece, but the agreement remains controversial with more than 100 objections to the sale filed by the automaker's dealers, bondholders, former employees and others.

However, if the deal doesn't close by June 15, Fiat could back out.

Also Wednesday, fellow U.S.-based automaker General Motors Corp. is set to announce the results of a debt swap offer that could decide whether it can restructure out of court or will follow its Auburn Hills, Mich.-based rival into Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Detroit-based GM gave the holders of some $27 billion of its bonds until midnight Tuesday to exchange their debt for a 10 percent stake in a new GM, and said it will announce the results Wednesday morning. If bondholders representing 90 percent of GM's unsecured debt—about $24 billion—didn't agree to the exchange, GM has said it will file for bankruptcy protection. Bondholders have balked at the proposal from the start, saying it gives them too small a stake for the amount they are owed.

US consumer confidence soars, but wallets still shut

NEW YORK (AP)—Even with unemployment still rising and home prices still slumping, Americans are getting their confidence back in the economy.

A widely watched barometer of confidence unexpectedly rose to the highest level since September, buoyed by an unexpected surge in the stock market, hopes that the job market might turn around and the belief that the worst of the recession is behind us.

But don't expect shoppers to buy expensive jeans and fancy furniture anytime soon.

"Consumers are not likely to spend just because they think things will get better," said Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wachovia. "They will actually have to see them get better."

As a testament to the economy's challenges, a closely monitored housing index also released Tuesday showed home prices fell at the sharpest rate ever in the first quarter, though the drop-off was worse at the beginning of the quarter.

Meanwhile, Americans are grappling with an unemployment rate that's expected to climb to 9.2 percent in May, up from 8.9 percent, as companies lay off more workers.

That has helped push shoppers to keep shopping at discount stores and cutting back on nonessentials.

Cheri Radke, 52, of Waukesha, Wis., says she buys more food, makeup and other necessities at Wal-Mart and shops sales at Target. Radke works in a bank and has been scared by seeing people cash more unemployment checks, so she's trying to be frugal.

"More on a need basis, less than a want," she said of her shopping habits. "I'm trying to be more cost-conscious."

Survey: Most economists see recession end in '09

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than 90 percent of economists predict the recession will end this year, although the recovery is likely to be bumpy.

That assessment came from leading forecasters in a survey by the National Association for Business Economics to be released Wednesday. It is generally in line with the outlook from Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues.

About 74 percent of the forecasters expect the recession—which started in December 2007 and is the longest since World War II—to end in the third quarter. Another 19 percent predict the turning point will come in the final three months of this year, and the remaining 7 percent believe the recession will end in the first quarter of 2010.

"While the overall tone remains soft, there are emerging signs that the economy is stabilizing," said NABE president Chris Varvares, head of Macroeconomic Advisers. "The economic recovery is likely to be considerably more moderate than those typically experienced following steep declines."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asia stocks up after US consumer confidence jumps

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock markets shot higher Wednesday after an upbeat reading of American consumer sentiment spurred more hopes of a rapid turnaround in the global economy. The swing higher lifted most industries and markets, with Hong Kong shares up nearly 5 percent, following days of jittery trade amid concerns about the economy, debt ratings of Western countries and North Korea's nuclear test. The dollar strengthened against the yen, while oil prices hovered above $62 a barrel. Bullish sentiment took hold after a key measure of U.S. consumer confidence jumped in May to its highest level since September, a reassuring sign Americans are growing more optimistic about the economy.

Oil above $62 amid rising US consumer confidence

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above $62 a barrel Wednesday in Asia as a report of increased consumer confidence fueled investor optimism that the U.S. is emerging from a severe recession. Benchmark crude for July delivery was up 2 cents to $62.47 a barrel by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Tuesday, the contract rose 78 cents to settle at $62.45. Oil prices have jumped from below $35 a barrel in March to six-month highs above $62 last week on investor expectations that the worst of the global economic slowdown is over.

Facebook's $200M investment values co. at $10B

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook is getting a $200 million investment from a Russian Internet investor that values the social networking company at $10 billion even though it has yet to turn a profit. The investment gives Digital Sky Technologies a nearly 2 percent stake in Palo Alto, Calif.-based Facebook's preferred stock. Digital Sky won't get a board seat. The $10 billion valuation for Facebook is less than the $15 billion value implied in 2007, when Microsoft spent $240 million for a 1.6 percent stake in the company—even though Facebook has substantially grown since then. However Facebook's own appraisal after the Microsoft deal gave the company a market value of about $3.7 billion, according to details revealed in a legal settlement.

Nation

Historic nomination: Hispanic Sotomayor as justice

WASHINGTON (AP)—Reaching for history, President Barack Obama on Tuesday chose federal appeals judge Sonia Sotomayor to be the first Hispanic justice on the Supreme Court, championing her as a compassionate, seasoned jurist whose against-the-odds life journey affirms the American dream. Republicans who will decide whether to make a fight of her confirmation said they want thorough hearings.

However, defeating Sotomayor would be difficult in the heavily Democratic Senate, and even a major effort to block her confirmation could be risky for a party still reeling from last year's elections. Hispanics are the fastest-growing part of the population and increasingly active politically.

Obama, eager to begin putting his imprint on the court, beamed as he introduced Sotomayor as a judge who displays both an impressive mind and heart, a jurist who takes on cases with "an understanding of how the world works and how ordinary people live." He raved about her credentials, saying she would start on the job with more experience on the bench than any of the current nine justices had when they began.

AP

President Barack Obama introduces federal appeals court Judge Sonia Sotomayor, right, as his nominee for the Supreme Court, Tuesday, May 26, 2009, in an East Room ceremony of the White House in Washington.

The White House tableau itself was history: A black president and his white vice president, Joe Biden, striding onto a stage in the ornate East Room with the nominee who grew up in a New York housing project where her parents had moved from Puerto Rico.

At 54, Sotomayor (pronounced soh-toh-my-YOR'), would join Ruth Bader Ginsburg as the second woman on the court and just the third in its history. She would replace liberal Justice David Souter, thereby maintaining the court's ideological divide. A number of important cases have been divided by 5-4 majorities, with conservative- and liberal-leaning justices split 4-4 and Justice Anthony Kennedy providing the decisive vote.

Senate Republicans pledged to give her a fair hearing but cautioned they would question her rigorously and not be rushed. The president, whose approval ratings trump those of Congress, challenged the Senate to move swiftly and confirm her before Congress' August break. The Supreme Court begins its new term in October.

Parents of teen cancer patient agree to chemo

NEW ULM, Minn. (AP)—A mother who took her son out of state because he refused court-ordered chemotherapy for his cancer told a judge Tuesday she now believes the treatment is necessary to save his life. The judge then ruled Daniel Hauser can stay with his parents.

Thirteen-year-old Daniel has Hodgkin's lymphoma that an oncologist who examined him Monday said has significantly worsened. Daniel and his mother, Colleen Hauser, missed a court appearance last week and left the state to seek alternative treatments. But both his parents told the judge they now understand their son needs chemotherapy and will set aside their religious objections to it.

Attorneys for Brown County family services and Daniel's guardian ad litem objected to returning custody to Colleen and Anthony Hauser.

"The only thing that has happened since we were last here is that Colleen Hauser fled the state with her son," said Tom Sinas, attorney for the guardian ad litem. "I don't see how that is the basis for revisiting the custody decision."

When Judge John Rodenberg asked an emotional Colleen Hauser if she now believes chemotherapy is necessary to save her son's life, she replied, "Yes I do."

Rodenberg said he felt the best place for Daniel was with his parents, as long as he could trust they'd go along with the oncologist's recommendation that Daniel undergo at least five chemotherapy sessions. The first is scheduled for Thursday at Children's Hospitals and Clinics in Minneapolis.

The family prefers natural healing practices suggested by a religious group called the Nemenhah Band, which says it follows American Indian beliefs.

Daniel and Colleen Hauser returned home Monday after almost a week on the run, during which they traveled to southern California. Authorities believed they may have been heading to Mexico to seek alternative treatment. Instead they decided to return home, and contacted an attorney who helped arrange a flight on a jet chartered by Asgaard Media, a film and TV production company based in Corona, Calif.

California high court upholds gay marriage ban

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—California's Supreme Court upheld the state's gay-marriage ban Tuesday but said the 18,000 same-sex weddings that took place before the prohibition passed are still valid—a ruling decried by gay-rights activists as a hollow victory. Demonstrators outside the court booed, wept and yelled, "Shame on you!" Activists said they would go back to the voters as early as next year in a bid to repeal the ban.

In a 6-1 decision written by Chief Justice Ron George, the court rejected arguments that the ban approved by the voters last fall was such a fundamental change in the California Constitution that it first needed the Legislature's approval.

"We are extremely pleased that the Supreme Court has acknowledged the right of voters to define marriage in the California Constitution," said Andrew P. Pugno, a lawyer for ProtectMarriage.com, the leading group behind the initiative. "The voters have decided this issue and their views should be respected."

As for the thousands of couples who tied the knot last year in the five months that gay marriage was legal in California, the court said it is well-established principle that an amendment is not retroactive unless it is clear that the voters intended it to be, and that was not the case with Proposition 8.

Moreover, the court said it would be too disruptive to apply Proposition 8 retroactively and dissolve all gay marriages.

Doing that would have the effect of "throwing property rights into disarray, destroying the legal interests and expectations of thousands of couples and their families, and potentially undermining the ability of citizens to plan their lives according to the law as it has been determined by this state's highest court," the ruling said.

While gay rights advocates accused the court of failing to protect a minority group from the will of the majority, the justices said that the state's governing framework gives voters almost unfettered ability to change the California Constitution.

The decision set off an outcry among a sea of demonstrators who had gathered in front of the San Francisco courthouse, holding signs and waving rainbow flags. Many people also held hands in a chain around an intersection in an act of protest. More than 150 protesters who blocked a street were arrested, with citations for failure to obey a police officer and jaywalking.

About 80 protesters rallied outside the Los Angeles County clerk's office, where marriage licenses are issued. They waved rainbow flags and carried signs that read "Repeal Prop 8 in 2010."

US cancer death rate drops again in 2006

ATLANTA (AP)—The U.S. cancer death rate fell again in 2006, a new analysis shows, continuing a slow downward trend that experts attribute to declines in smoking, earlier detection and better treatment.

About 560,000 people died of cancer that year, according to an American Cancer Society report released Wednesday. The new numbers show the death rate fell by less than 2 percent, but since that decline was better than the previous year, the cancer society applauded the progress.

Others said the change was not a big deal.

"The improvement was modest," said Dr. Michael Goodman, an Emory University researcher who specializes in cancer statistics.

Cancer is the nation's No. 2 killer, behind heart disease, and accounts for nearly a quarter of annual deaths. The cancer death rate has been falling since the early 1990s.

The new rate shows 181 cancer deaths per 100,000 people. That was down from about 184 in 2005.

It takes a rate decline of at least 2 percent to offset population growth and cause a drop in the actual number of cancer deaths. That happened in 2002 and 2003 for the first time since 1930. But it hasn't happened since.

The explanation for why the death rate has fallen depends on the type of cancer. For example, better screening has improved deaths from colon cancer. Treatment advances are more of a factor in leukemia death rates. And smoking cessation is the main reason behind improvements in male lung cancer deaths.

ACROSS THE NATION

Burris pleads on taped call for Senate appointment

CHICAGO (AP)—Sen. Roland Burris promised to "personally do something" for Rod Blagojevich's campaign fund while pressing for the then-Illinois governor to appoint him to President Barack Obama's former Senate seat, according to a wiretap transcript released Tuesday. "Tell Rod to keep me in mind for that seat, would ya?" Burris tells Robert Blagojevich, who headed his brother's campaign fund, in a Nov. 13 phone conversation secretly taped by the FBI. The remark came after Robert Blagojevich urged Burris to "keep me in mind and you know if you guys can just write checks that'd be fine, if we can't find a way for you to tie in."

Tire fire forces evacuation of East Texas town

DALLAS (AP)—Toxic smoke from a blaze in an acre-size heap of old tires forced the evacuation of a small East Texas town and closed its schools Tuesday. Firefighters did not have enough water and foam to extinguish the fire, so they dug a ditch to get dirt to smolder the flames. Morning rain aided their efforts but the fire was still burning late Tuesday, more than 20 hours after it started. No injuries were reported. Heavy equipment was being used to smother the fire. Firefighters were expected to work overnight to quell the blaze by Wednesday morning, said Eric Delgado, the Environmental Protection Agency's on-scene coordinator.

Tests prove innocence of 23-year prisoner in Texas

DALLAS (AP)—The Dallas County District Attorney says a man who has spent nearly 23 years in prison on a sexual assault conviction is set to be exonerated by DNA testing. District Attorney Craig Watkins said Tuesday that post-conviction tests have proved Jerry Lee Evans is innocent. The 47-year-old Evans was sentenced to life in prison in 1987 after being convicted of aggravated sexual assault with a deadly weapon. Evans was picked by the victim out of a photo lineup one year after the assault near downtown Dallas. A hearing was scheduled Wednesday to enter the DNA test results in court.

Asia

Report: North Korea restarts nuclear plant

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A strident North Korea has reportedly restarted a weapons-grade nuclear plant and staged a mass rally to celebrate its second nuclear test as world powers, including allies China and Russia, moved Wednesday to punish the isolated communist regime.

The North also announced that South Korea's decision to participate in an international program aimed at stemming the flow of weapons of mass destruction was equal to a "declaration of war."

Pyongyang said through its official news agency that it would respond with military action if the South tried to stop or search any of its ships. South Korea decided to join the program, known as the Proliferation Security Initiative, after Monday's nuclear test.

Earlier in the day, South Korea's mass-circulation Chosun Ilbo newspaper reported that U.S. spy planes detected signs of steam at the Yongbyon nuclear plant, an indication the facility may have started reprocessing nuclear fuel.

The report, which could not be confirmed, quoted an unnamed government official. South Korea's Yonhap news agency also had a similar report.

AP

A North Korean soldier armed with a machine gun stand amongst residents near a boat loaded with goods along the Yalu River riverbank of North Korean border town of Sinuiju that lies opposite Dandong, northeastern China's Liaoning province, Wednesday, May 27, 2009.

The move would be a major setback to efforts aimed at getting the North to disarm.

North Korea had stopped reprocessing fuel rods as part of an international deal. In 2007, it agreed to disable the Yongbyon reactor in exchange for aid and last year demolished a cooling tower at the complex.

The North has about 8,000 spent fuel rods which, if reprocessed, could allow the country to harvest 13 to 18 pounds (6 to 8 kilograms) of plutonium—enough to make at least one nuclear bomb, experts said. North Korea is believed to have enough plutonium for at least half a dozen atomic bombs.

Further ratcheting up tensions, North Korea has test-fired five short-range missiles over the past two days, South Korean officials confirmed.

Pyongyang hinted that more could be planned, telling ships to stay away from waters off its west coast through Wednesday.

The North's moves have brought a wave of international reproach.

In New York, the U.N. Security Council was discussing a resolution that could include new sanctions.

Ambassadors from the five permanent veto-wielding council members—the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France—as well as Japan and South Korea were expected to meet again soon to work out the details.

Council members, after condemning the test on Monday, said they would follow up with a new legally binding resolution.

China and Russia, both close allies of North Korea, slammed Pyongyang for going ahead with the blast.

Russia, once a key backer of North Korea, condemned it and Moscow's U.N. ambassador, Vitaly Churkin, who is also the Security Council president, said the 15-member body would begin work "quickly" on a new resolution.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu also said Beijing "resolutely opposed" the nuclear test. He urged Pyongyang to return to negotiations under which it had agreed to dismantle its atomic program.

Still, diplomats acknowledged that there were limits to the international response and that past sanctions have had only spotty results because North Korea is already one of the most isolated countries in the world.

Suu Kyi marks 6 years of detention

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi marked six years of continuous detention by Myanmar's military regime Wednesday, as she defends herself in court on charges that she violated the law by sheltering an uninvited American at her home.

Suu Kyi was back in court after insisting in testimony Tuesday that she did not violate the law. The trial, which was expected to culminate in a guilty verdict, has continued despite an international outcry that included unprecedented criticism from neighboring governments in Asia.

U.S. President Barrack Obama said Tuesday that Suu Kyi's continued detention, isolation and "show trial based on spurious charges" cast serious doubt on the Myanmar government's willingness to be a responsible member of the international community.

Suu

Asian and European ministers, meeting in Hanoi, called for a lifting of restrictions on Myanmar's political parties, preparation for a free, fair and multiparty election in 2010, and Suu Kyi's release. Myanmar's neighbor Thailand has said it has "grave concerns" about the trial.

About 150 local activists staged a peaceful demonstration in front of the Myanmar Embassy in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh on Wednesday and a similar rally was also scheduled in Bangkok.

Suu Kyi's latest term of house arrest was to have ended Wednesday, according to her supporters. The regime argues that it would have expired in November, but in any event has canceled her house arrest order, apparently because this is required by law when a suspect is charged with a crime.

The Nobel Peace Prize laureate has spent more than 13 of the past 19 years in detention without trial, most at her dilapidated Yangon home.

Official: Bombing kills about 30 in Pakistan

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide car bomber targeted buildings housing police and intelligence agency offices in eastern Pakistan on Wednesday, killing about 30 and wounding more than 100 in one of the deadliest such blasts in the country this year, officials said.

The attack, which was followed by gunfire, was the third major strike in the city of Lahore in recent months, and it came amid worries of retaliation from Taliban militants facing a major Pakistani military offensive in the northwest.

Lahore is a major cultural metropolis near the Indian border, and assaults there have heightened fears that militancy in Pakistan is spreading well beyond the northwest region bordering Afghanistan.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for Wednesday's bombing.

Raja Riaz, a senior minister in the Punjab province government, told reporters that about 30 people died. Fayyaz Ranjha, a senior health official, told state-run Pakistan Television that the attack had wounded 116 people.

The explosion was so powerful it sheared the walls off buildings in a main business district. TV footage from the scene showed injured bystanders while emergency workers carried at least one person covered by a blanket to an ambulance.

Police official Mohammed Ashfaq said it was a suicide car bomber, and that the attack occurred outside the office of the emergency police service in Lahore. TV footage showed the nearby office of the Inter-Services Intelligence agency also was damaged.

Ashfaq said gunshots were heard immediately after the blast. An AP reporter saw dozens of troops entering the damaged building of the spy agency to supervise the rescue work, while gunshots were also heard from inside the building even one hour after the blast.

Sri Lanka's displaced families torn apart by war

MANIK FARM, Sri Lanka (AP)—Lakshmi Rasamy reached through the barbed wire enclosing this displacement camp, grabbed her mother's hand and wept for her four children who were killed in the last spasm of fighting in Sri Lanka's civil war.

Around her, other camp residents searched the crowd outside for their loved ones and spoke of families split apart by the chaos, of sons detained by the military, of illness, injury and death.

While Sri Lanka celebrates its military victory over the Tamil Tiger rebels after a quarter-century of warfare, nearly 300,000 ethnic Tamils who were driven from their homes and trapped in the war zone are struggling to come to terms with the scars of the fighting.

Most of them have been corralled into Manik Farm, a 1,400-acre (570-hectare) lot of former scrubland that has been turned into what the U.N. describes as the world's largest displacement camp, housing 210,000 people in endless rows of white tents.

Like dozens of other smaller camps in the north, Manik Farm is surrounded by coils of razor wire and rows of barbed wire. Those inside are barred from leaving, a restriction that has generated strong criticism from international rights groups who say the displaced should be free to choose where they want to live.

"We are holding them here for their own safety," military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said during a military-led tour of the camp Tuesday. "We don't want anyone to come here and set off a bomb."

Other officials say the war refugees must be screened to weed out any remaining rebels from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam who may be hiding among them.

But the restrictions have also kept families apart and left the barbed wire fence as the only link between those inside the camps and their relatives who lived outside the war zone.

U.N. humanitarian chief John Holmes called on the government Tuesday for more freedom of movement for those now in camps, family reunifications and rapid resettlement of people forced from their homes. "If that does not happen, then very serious questions will have to start being asked," Holmes told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Rasamy, 45, sat in the dirt with tears pouring down her cheeks as she held hands through the rows of barbed wire with her mother outside the fence. She told her of the final days of the war, her escape from the battle zone five days ago and the death of four of her five children in the violence.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Cyclone Aila toll up to 168 in India, Bangladesh

CALCUTTA, India (AP)—The death toll from Cyclone Aila in eastern India and Bangladesh rose to at least 168 on Wednesday, officials said, while heavy rains after the storm caused deadly mudslides and slowed rescue efforts. The toll was expected to rise in both countries as rescue workers reached cut-off areas. The cyclone destroyed thousands of homes and stranded tens of thousands of people in flooded villages before it began to ease Tuesday. But mudslides in India's famed Darjeeling tea district killed at least 20 people overnight, said P. Zimba, a local government official. The official death toll in India stood at 68 by Wednesday, said Ashok Mohan Chakraborty, a senior official in worst-hit West Bengal state.

Report: Ex-SKorean leader was alone when he died

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Former South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun is believed to have sent his bodyguard on an errand to a nearby temple just before jumping to his death, a news report said Wednesday. Roh died Saturday after throwing himself off a rocky cliff that overlooks his home in the village of Bongha, 280 miles (450 kilometers) southeast of Seoul. The bodyguard had initially told police that he was with Roh on Owl's Rock for some 25 minutes before the former president suddenly jumped. However, police later determined that Roh had sent his bodyguard to a nearby temple to ask for some information, at which point the ex-leader jumped to his death, Yonhap news agency reported.

Muslim militants release three Filipino teachers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Three teachers freed by Filipino militants said they were threatened and slapped during four months of jungle captivity, while the U.S. increased rewards for the capture of leaders of the brutal al-Qaida-linked guerrillas. The teachers, working in far-flung southern islands, were abducted Jan. 23 from a boat off Zamboanga city, one of the several ransom kidnappings blamed on Abu Sayyaf guerrillas. Quizon Freires, Janette Delos Reyes and Rafael Mayonado, who met their parents in tearful reunions and underwent medical checkups Tuesday, said their captors forced them to do chores including gathering firewood and fetching water from a river. If the militants were in a bad mood, they would sometimes hurt the teachers.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

British Conservative leader calls for change

LONDON (AP)—Conservative Party leader David Cameron called Tuesday for sweeping reforms to Britain's political system, part of an aggressive damage-control campaign that has made him the only political figure to gain ground from a scandal over lawmakers' expenses. Cameron—widely expected to be the next prime minister—is now on record as wanting to find ways to increase the authority of parliament and limit the prime minister's powers, possibly by ending the leader's ability to schedule elections. "We will begin a massive redistribution of power in our country, from the powerful to the powerless, from the political elite to the man and the woman in the street," he said.

Canada's governor general eats seal heart

RANKIN INLET, Nunavut (AP)—Canada's governor general ate a slaughtered seal's raw heart in a show of support to the country's seal hunters, a display that a European Union spokeswoman on Tuesday called "too bizarre to acknowledge." Governor General Michaelle Jean, the representative of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as Canada's head of state, gutted the seal and swallowed a slice of the mammal's organ late Monday after an EU vote earlier this month to impose a ban on seal products on grounds that the seal hunt is cruel. Asked Tuesday whether her actions were a message to Europe, Jean replied, "Take from that what you will."

Fighting in Somali capital kills 9

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Somali insurgents fired mortars at the presidential palace in the capital, killing seven civilians and two government soldiers, witnesses and officials said Wednesday. Military spokesman Farhan Casoye said the insurgents were aiming for the palace but hit a residential area Tuesday night—the latest bloodshed in a surge of violence this month that has killed nearly 200 people. Insurgents are trying to topple the country's Western-backed government and install a strict Islamic state. "The mortars rained down on our home, I ran with my children for cover and on my way I saw the dead bodies of two government soldiers in uniform, they were hit by a mortar," Sahra Abdullahi Gedi, a mother of six.

Army chief says US ready to be in Iraq 10 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon is prepared to leave fighting forces in Iraq for as long as a decade despite an agreement between the United States and Iraq that would bring all American troops home by 2012, the top U.S. Army officer said Tuesday.

Gen. George Casey, the Army chief of staff, said the world remains dangerous and unpredictable, and the Pentagon must plan for extended U.S. combat and stability operations in two wars. "Global trends are pushing in the wrong direction," Casey said. "They fundamentally will change how the Army works."

He spoke at an invitation-only briefing to a dozen journalists and policy analysts from Washington-based think-tanks. He said his planning envisions combat troops in Iraq and Afghanistan for a decade as part of a sustained U.S. commitment to fighting extremism and terrorism in the Middle East.

Casey's calculations about force levels are related to his attempt to ease the brutal deployment calendar that he said would "bring the Army to its knees."

Casey would not specify how many combat units would be split between Iraq and Afghanistan. He said U.S. ground commander Gen. Ray Odierno is leading a study to determine how far U.S. forces could be cut back in Iraq and still be effective.

President Barack Obama plans to bring U.S. combat forces home from Iraq in 2010, and the United States and Iraq have agreed that all American forces would leave by 2012. Although several senior U.S. officials have suggested Iraq could request an extension, the legal agreement the two countries signed last year would have to be amended for any significant U.S. presence to remain.

AP

In this Jan. 15, 2007, file photo, Gen. George Casey, then the U.S. commander in Iraq, who is currently Army chief of staff, answers a question in Baghdad.

As recently as February, Defense Secretary Robert Gates reiterated the U.S. commitment to the agreement worked out with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

"Under the Status of Forces Agreement with the Iraqi government, I intend to remove all U.S. troops from Iraq by the end of 2011," Gates said during an address at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. "We will complete this transition to Iraqi responsibility, and we will bring our troops home with the honor that they have earned."

The United States currently has about 139,000 troops in Iraq and 52,000 in Afghanistan.

Obama campaigned on ending the Iraq war as quickly as possible and refocusing U.S. resources on what he called the more important fight in Afghanistan.

That will not mean a major influx of U.S. fighting forces on the model of the Iraq "surge," however. Obama has agreed to send about 21,000 combat forces and trainers to Afghanistan this year. Combined with additional forces approved before former President George W. Bush left office, the United States is expected to have about 68,000 troops in Afghanistan by the end of this year. That's about double the total at the end of 2008, but Obama's top military and civilian advisers have indicated the number is unlikely to grow much beyond that.

Casey said several times that he wasn't the person making policy, but the military was preparing to have a fighting force deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan for years to come. Casey said his planning envisions 10 combat brigades plus command and support forces committed to the two wars.

When asked whether the Army had any measurement for knowing how big it should be, Casey responded, "How about the reality scenario?"

Roadside blast kills 3 Americans in western Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—A roadside bomb blasted a U.S. convoy west of Baghdad, killing three Americans, including a top reconstruction official who once headed the Illinois Commerce Commission, U.S. authorities said Tuesday.

The attack occurred Monday on the eastern outskirts of Fallujah, which used to be the main stronghold of Sunni insurgents until U.S. troops overran the city in November 2004 in the bitterest urban fighting of the Iraq war.

Since then, Fallujah, 40 miles (70 kilometers) west of Baghdad in Anbar province, has been among the most heavily guarded cities in Iraq. A fatal attack in such an area illustrates the resilience of the insurgents despite major setbacks on the battlefield during the past two years.

Those killed in the blast included Terrence "Terry" Barnich, 56, deputy director of the State Department office that oversees U.S. reconstruction projects in Iraq, as well as a U.S. soldier and a Defense Department employee working for the U.S. Embassy, according to a U.S. statement.

Two other people were wounded, the U.S. said. None of the victims except Barnich was identified.

Mexico detains 10 mayors for alleged drug ties

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Federal forces detained 10 mayors and 18 other officials Tuesday for allegedly protecting one of Mexico's most violent drug cartels in an unprecedented anti-corruption sweep in the Pacific coast state of Michoacan.

Soldiers and federal agents fanned out across President Felipe Calderon's native state to carry out the operation, which an expert called a blow to politicians tied to traffickers in Michoacan.

The officials, who had been under investigation for six months, allegedly leaked sensitive information and provided protection to La Familia cartel, said Ricardo Najera, a spokesman for the federal Attorney General's Office. He declined to give more details to avoid compromising the case.

More than 200 federal agents burst into the state attorney general's office in Morelia to detain three of the officials.

Most of the mayors were from towns in a mountainous region where there have been numerous beheadings and federal agents recently found 22 methamphetamine laboratories. Among those detained was the mayor of Uruapan, where La Familia gunmen dumped five human heads on a bar dance floor in 2006, the Attorney General's Office said in a statement.

The mayors came from different parties, including Calderon's own conservative National Action Party.

The detentions of elected officials show how Mexican cartels have infiltrated the country's political structure and how far-reaching their control is in rural Mexico, said Victor Clark, an expert on trafficking based in the drug-plagued northern border city of Tijuana.

It also marks a first for the federal government, which has arrested scores of corrupt police officers in the past but has never gone after such a large group of mayors.

"This is a huge blow to the cartel. These ties are indispensable for the operation of these organizations," said Clark, director of the Binational Center for Human Rights in Tijuana. "But until now the government has never dared to touch the political classes tied to drug trafficking. For me this is an important step."

High-ranking state police officials and two municipal police chiefs were among those detained Tuesday, including state police academy director Mario Bautista and the state governor's adviser, Citlalli Fernandez, who also is the former public safety secretary, the Attorney General's Office said.

Michoacan Gov. Leonel Godoy said the federal forces had also sought the state attorney general for questioning but could not locate him during Tuesday's operation. Officials at the federal Attorney General's Office said they had no information about that claim.

Godoy criticized the federal government for not informing him about the arrests, but promised to cooperate with the investigation. He said any state government official under investigation would be asked to resign.

Meanwhile, the federal Public Safety Department paraded before the news media 11 suspected La Familia members who were detained late Monday and early Tuesday in the states of Michoacan and Mexico, among them a former Michoacan state police officer.

Cuba sounds summer energy alarm, plans Sat. blackouts

HAVANA (AP)—Cubans are in for an especially hot summer under an energy saving plan that could shut off air conditioners at work and require Saturday-morning blackouts at home, according to an unpublished government directive obtained by The Associated Press.

The plan, signed by new Economics Minister Marino Murillo and circulating Tuesday among government offices and state companies, also calls for large-scale vacations for government workers but doesn't say if they will be paid. The measures are necessary, it says, to conserve petroleum used to generate electricity during the Caribbean nation's sweltering summer months.

Residential electrical use can often triple in the summer because of fans and air conditioners.

In the nation's capital, home to more than 2 million of Cuba's more than 11 million people, temperatures commonly hit 32 Celsius (near 90 degrees Fahrenheit) and up during the summer. Humidity hovers around 88 percent in the morning.

"On the bus, everyone is talking about it," food service worker Milenis Angarcia said of the measures, which had been rumored in recent days.

"Another 'Special Period' wouldn't be easy," she added, referring to severe economic measures taken in the early 1990s after the Soviet Union's collapse.

"What can you do? We'll move forward," said her co-worker Angela Angueira. "This country is prepared for anything."

The directive says the government is alarmed by unexpected increases in petroleum use this year and the "exceptional measures" will take effect Monday. It says 40,000 extra metric tons of petroleum worth $100,000 were used during the first three months of the year to cover an unplanned 3 percent increase in electricity over what was projected for that period.

The directive did not explain the increase, but there have been growing government calls in recent days for workers to labor harder and not waste petroleum and other resources.

Environment

US military embraces green energy

By ALEXANDRA ZAVIS
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LOS ANGELES TIMES

A dome shelter at Fort Irwin draws power from solar panels and a wind turbine. The Army is experimenting with alternative ways to power the Mojave Desert training area, which replicates austere combat conditions.

FORT IRWIN, Calif.—Inside a futuristic-looking dome that rises from the sandy wasteland of the high Mojave Desert, soldiers in plywood cubicles work at computers powered by solar panels and a towering wind turbine.

Plug-in cars shuttle the troops across the vast expanses here at Fort Irwin in San Bernardino County. At night, tents lined with insulating foam provide a cool retreat at the end of a 100-degree day.

The desert base, which houses the Army's premier training center for troops deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan, has become a testing ground and showcase for green initiatives that officials estimate could save the services millions, trim their heavy environmental "boot-print" and even save lives in the war zones, where fuel convoys are frequent targets.

The Department of Defense is the single largest energy consumer in the U.S. Last year it bought nearly 4 billion gallons of jet fuel, 220 million gallons of diesel and 73 million gallons of gasoline, said Brian Lally, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment.

American forces in Iraq and Afghanistan are using more fuel each day than in any other war in U.S. history. When oil prices spiked last summer, the Defense Department's energy tab shot up from about $13 billion per year in 2006 and 2007 to $20 billion in 2008. The Army alone had to make up a half-billion-dollar shortfall in its energy budget, said Keith Eastin, assistant secretary of the Army for installations and environment.

"That was, I think, a grand wake-up call that we somehow had to get a handle on what is loosely called energy security," Eastin said.

Defense officials now consider reducing consumption and embracing energy alternatives to be national security imperatives. At Fort Irwin, commanders are experimenting with ways to power the desert training area—which replicates austere combat conditions—using wind, solar and organic waste-to-fuel technologies.

When Brig. Gen. Dana Pittard took command of Fort Irwin in 2007, he was stunned by the cost of housing troops in tents powered by generators, as they often are in Iraq and Afghanistan. A brigade of about 4,000 to 5,000 troops was spending about $3 million to rent the tents and keep the air conditioners humming during a month-long rotation, Pittard said. By building tents covered with two to three inches of insulating foam and a solar-reflective coating, they reduced the generator requirements by 45 percent to 75 percent, a technique that is now being used at some larger bases in the war zones.

Estimates are that a $22-million investment to replace all the rented tents at Fort Irwin with insulated, semi-permanent ones would pay for itself within nine months and could save the Army $100 million over five years, said Eric Gardner, a logistics management specialist at the base.

By reducing generator use, Fort Irwin also expects to cut carbon emissions by 35 million pounds each year—equivalent to taking 3,500 vehicles off the road, Gardner said. This year, for the first time, the facility did not need a waiver allowing it to exceed the state of California's emissions standards in the training area, Pittard said.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A helicopter is moved on an electric cart. This year, for the first time, Fort Irwin did not need a waiver for its training area to exceed California's emissions standards.

Some kinks still have to be worked out as the base increases its use of alternative energy. Although there is plenty of sunshine in the desert to keep solar systems running through the day, the military needs ways to store that energy for nighttime use. And although there is plenty of wind, the Air Force has expressed concern that turbines could interfere with its radar systems.

Even so, Pittard, who left Fort Irwin in March to become deputy chief of staff of the Training and Doctrine Command Headquarters at Fort Monroe in Virginia, is convinced that within five years it will be possible to take Fort Irwin off the electric grid. The nearby Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, also in the Mojave Desert, already is powered completely by geothermal energy generated by hot water below the surface.

Producers and advocates of green technology are taking note. The Defense Department derives 9.8 percent of its power from alternative sources and is looking to expand use of wind, solar, thermal and nuclear energy. Some believe that the military has the potential to become a catalyst, helping to turn more expensive power sources into financially viable alternatives to coal and petroleum.

"If the military were to go green, I think that this really could achieve some environmental goals, for a very simple reason: the military is so big," said Matthew Kahn, an environmental economist at the University of California, Los Angeles' Institute of the Environment.

Although that remains to be seen, Kahn noted that it would not be the first time the military has had a transforming effect on technology. Cellphones, the Global Positioning System and the Internet all have roots in the military.

Some in the green energy sector hope that as the military adopts alternative power sources, the technology will gain broader acceptance among political conservatives.

"Just hearing that their military is embracing this new technology that was thought of as left-of-center is going to swing people's thoughts about using (it)," said David Melton, president of Albuquerque-based Sacred Power Corp., which installed some of Fort Irwin's photovoltaic panels and wind turbines.

Military officials concede that changing an institutional culture that until recently was far from green has sometimes been an uphill battle. But at a time of shrinking defense budgets, they say, commanders are finding that making their facilities more energy-efficient and generating some of their own power can yield significant cost savings.

Los Angeles Times

Locator map details Fort Irwin, Calif.

And there is financial impetus to act: President Barack Obama's economic stimulus package includes $120 million to improve the energy efficiency of Defense installations and $300 million for military research into alternative power.

Some military initiatives may even generate green energy for civilian use. Before Pittard left Fort Irwin, he proposed building a 40-megawatt solar project, enough to cover the base's needs. Officials in Washington saw an opportunity to generate income by also spinning off electricity to the grid. The Army has now invited bids from the private sector to lease land at Fort Irwin to build a 500-megawatt solar project.

The project has many hurdles to clear, including obtaining environmental approval, a process expected to take about two years. But Eastin believes that it could become a model for how to use one of the Army's biggest assets: land.

The Army has more than 12 million acres, including large tracts that cannot be used for military, residential or commercial purposes because they are intended as buffers between bases and the civilian population. Some of that land, Eastin said, would be ideal for a solar array, wind farm or geothermal project. Within 15 years, he predicts, the Army "will be a net energy exporter."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Soldiers collect brass shell casings to recycle. A $500-million shortfall in the Army's energy budget last year was "a grand wake-up call," an Army official said.

Life & Style

LOS ANGELES TIMES

"One thing I can't stand about Hollywood is waste," Michael Bay says. "I've gotten to be a very, very efficient shooter."

Michael Bay is hardly a changed man with 'Transformers'

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Michael Bay is lean, walks with purpose and carries his chin and shoulders at an imperious tilt, and on a recent afternoon at his work compound in Santa Monica it was easy to envision him as some proud matador; Bay, like those bullfighters in Barcelona, Spain, thinks of himself as a mayhem artist in the crowd-pleasing business.

Bay is back in the ring on June 24 with his eighth film, "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," which many industry observers expect to surpass the first "Transformers" film, which grossed a staggering $708 million worldwide in 2007. "The pre-tracking is huge," Bay said of surveys of audience interest in the movie that stars Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox and an army of two-story alien robots.

He rolled his eyes, though, contemplating the last-minute labor that needs to be done. "This one," he said, "is barely going to make it to theaters. You have no idea how complicated my life is."

The 44-year-old chuckled about his stress level, which fits his industry reputation as a director who thrives on pressure and adrenaline. Bay makes huge movies with high concepts and so many explosions that you expect the filmmaker to reek of cordite when you shake his hand.

His films such as "The Rock," "Bad Boys" and "Armageddon" may make film critics cringe (Kenneth Turan in the Los Angeles Times called him a "world-class noisemaker" who leaves audiences "feeling pummeled, not exhilarated"), but Hollywood executives view them as spectacles that are big enough to lure consumers away from their home theaters. With this new film, he describes the "huge canvas" of its visual effects in terms of computer memory—at Industrial Light & Magic, the San Francisco effects house, the first "Transformers" movie took up an astounding 15 terabytes; the new one required 140 terabytes. "That breaks every record," said Bay, who is far more Barnum than Bergman.

You might expect that his pursuit of massive entertainment would lead to humongous budget overruns, but in fact it's a point of pride for him to wring every bit of bang out of each buck. The lanky, lupine filmmaker came from the world of television commercials (he did work for Budweiser and Nike, but the classic was his Aaron Burr "Got Milk" ad) and even after 15 years of making feature films, he still positions himself as a contrarian outsider who is offended by peers who, as a group, he views as too slow, arty, wasteful and indulgent.

"The way I do it, we work hard, we work fast," Bay said. "We shoot 12-hour days. ... One thing I can't stand about Hollywood is waste. I've gotten to be a very, very efficient shooter. On average, these type of sequels run in the $230-million to $240-million range and we're shooting this for a flat $200 million. A lot of these directors have second unit the entire time, that's millions of dollars just wasted. We do it all ourselves."

Bay likes to conserve his budget so he can film in exotic places that other directors find too difficult to access and, along with emphasis on pyro work and stunts, gives his productions the vibe of daredevil tourism. On this new film, he "weaseled" his way into the Giza pyramid complex in Egypt ("We were the first movie in 30 years to shoot physically on the pyramids") where he shot with a 150-member crew for three days and, a few days later, he took his team to the top of the rock-carved architecture of Petra in Jordan, where military helicopters ferried 36 loads of gear to the perilous perch.

The choppers, by the way, were thanks to a Jordanian prince who loved Bay's first robot movie, while in Egypt it was Zahi Hawass, the secretary-general of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities, who turned out to be "a big fan of 'Transformers,'" Bay said, sounding surprised himself. (Bay seems to enjoy more support abroad than at home, perhaps because an explosion is easily translated; "Pearl Harbor" and "The Island," for instance, pulled in $251 million and $127 million abroad, respectively, far more than they earned during disappointing releases in the States.)

There may be very little mystery to Bay's movies, but he himself is a figure of fascination in Hollywood.

"We're still not quite sure how he does it when he's directing," says screenwriter Alex Kurtzman, who worked on both "Transformers" films. "People who work closest with him call his method 'Bay-os' because it feels like wartime chaos. There are explosions going off in every direction and half as many cameras flying all over the place, and you stand there thinking none of it's going to make any sense, then you watch the scenes cut together and realize something shocking: He's choreographed a ballet. He knows exactly which pieces he's going to use from each camera and he'd already cut the scene together in his head."

Bay poked fun at his reputation in a recent Verizon commercial; it begins with him watching "Transformers" and marveling at his own work. "Hmm, genius." He then proceeds to profess his love for all things awesome, from his pet cat (a giant tiger) to his awesome barbecue and awesome swimming pool (which he proceeds to blow up with a thumb detonator).

"I don't take myself so seriously," he said in his surprisingly hushed offices. "All these people think I do. Look, a lot of people think it's fun to hate on Michael Bay. There's a lot of poison on the Internet. People always try to knock someone who's had a ton of success in movies. Whatever."

Bay grew up in Los Angeles and attended Crossroads School in Santa Monica before heading off to Connecticut Wesleyan University. A formative experience in his youth was a summer job as a filing clerk at Lucasfilm's art department. The job got him into a screening of "Blade Runner" and his memory of it was that people walked out puzzled and with none of the buzzing satisfaction of a "Star Wars" audience.

He was turned down by the University of Southern California's film school and ended up at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. His big break came with "Bad Boys" in 1995, and it still holds a special place in his heart. In "Revenge of the Fallen," Sam Witwicky (LaBeouf) has a dorm-room poster showing "Bad Boys" stars Will Smith and Martin Lawrence.

"Those were two TV actors, and I was a music video and commercial guy," Bay said. "We had $10,000 for a rewrite, and we had to go let the writer go play golf every day, that was part of the deal. No one believed in the script. Don Simpson and Jerry Bruckheimer were working on 'Crimson Tide,' that was their real movie, we were the tiny movie on the side. ... The Friday before the shoot began, Don told Jerry, 'We're taking our name off this movie, it's crap.' I thought my career was over."

Bay said he pulled his stars into the trailer on the Miami set to rip out script pages and improvise on entire sequences, an approach he used consistently in his days making commercials. "Looking back, it was fun. We grew up on that one."

The $19-million movie supercharged the careers of Smith and Lawrence and made $142 million. There was a sequel that pulled in $273 million and by then Bay was established as the definition of bankable.

Other directors came into this summer with major career subplots: Could J.J. Abrams win over scowling Trekkers? Would McG resurrect himself with "Terminator"? Did Gavin Hood really lose control of "Wolverine"? But Bay seems like a man looking for things to polish, not to prove.

Mike Tyson's daughter dies after accident in home

PHOENIX (AP)—Police say the 4-year-old daughter of boxer Mike Tyson has died a day after her neck accidentally was caught in a treadmill cord while she was playing at home.

Phoenix police spokesman Andy Hill said Exodus Tyson was pronounced dead in a hospital just before noon Tuesday. Police have said an investigation showed it was a "tragic accident."

Police say the girl was playing on the treadmill Monday when her head apparently slipped inside a cord hanging under the console. Exodus' 7-year-old brother found her Monday and told their mother, who was in another room. She took Exodus off the cord, called 911 and tried to revive her.

Tyson

"Somehow she was playing on this treadmill, and there's a cord that hangs under the console—it's kind of a loop," police Sgt. Andy Hill said. "Either she slipped or put her head in the loop, but it acted like a noose, and she was obviously unable to get herself off of it."

Responding officers and firefighters performed CPR on Exodus as they rushed her to a nearby hospital, where she was in "extremely critical condition" and on life support, Hill said.

Hill said former heavyweight champion Tyson, 42, had been in Las Vegas but flew to Phoenix immediately after learning of the accident.

"The Tyson family would like to extend our deepest and most heartfelt thanks for all your prayers and support, and we ask that we be allowed our privacy at this difficult time," the boxer said in a statement.

Brief footage from local TV station KTVK showed Tyson arriving at the hospital in a white button-up and black pants, and looking around with a frown before going inside.

Hill said everything in the investigation pointed to a "tragic accident," adding that calls involving children is an officer's most difficult duty.

"Those are the things that stay with you in your career," he said. "We always hope for a miracle—not to have the worst happen to a child."

Neighbors said they were surprised and saddened when they heard what had happened.

"It's terrible," said Abby St. Jermain, who grew up in the neighborhood and is house-sitting for her parents down the street. "The kids are so sweet. We always see them riding their bikes, playing. They've just been wonderful people."

Dinka Radic, who lives across the street, described Exodus as smart and sweet.

"The little girl, she says 'You got chocolate in your house?'" Radic said. "I say 'Yes,' and she says, 'OK, give me some.'"

When she gives the girl the chocolate, Radic said "she just kisses me on my knees. Kiss, kiss, kiss. Very nice."

Adam Lambert keen on Queen, but won't rock only

NEW YORK (AP)—Will he, will he rock you? Adam Lambert won't rule out a stint as the new frontman of Queen, but don't let that fool you into thinking the "American Idol" runner-up will make his living on the classic rock station. The legendary band has expressed interest in employing his formidable vocal skills, and Lambert is a big fan of the group once fronted by the late Freddie Mercury.

But the 27-year-old California native said Tuesday that he'd feel torn about joining the band.

"That's a tough question because, honestly, how do you say no to being in Queen?" said Lambert, sporting his trademark dark nail polish and blue-streaked hair. "I mean, that's unbelievable. But at the same time, I do have my own thing to do right now, and that's my goal. So if I could, I would try to do both. That's the honest question. I would try to do both. I would love to perform with them anytime they wanted me to but I also have my record to do. So, we'll see."

Lambert, a former theater actor, has ambitious plans for his post-"Idol" debut album.

"My record will be kind of a rock-pop-electronic-dance thing," he said. "I don't know how to describe it. I think it's gonna take on a life of its own, as far as genre goes."

The album is in the very early stages and Lambert aims to co-write much of the material.

On "Idol," Lambert was the resident glam rocker, staging elaborate, over-the-top performances and daring to don goth-inspired outfits (with guyliner) on an otherwise family-style show.

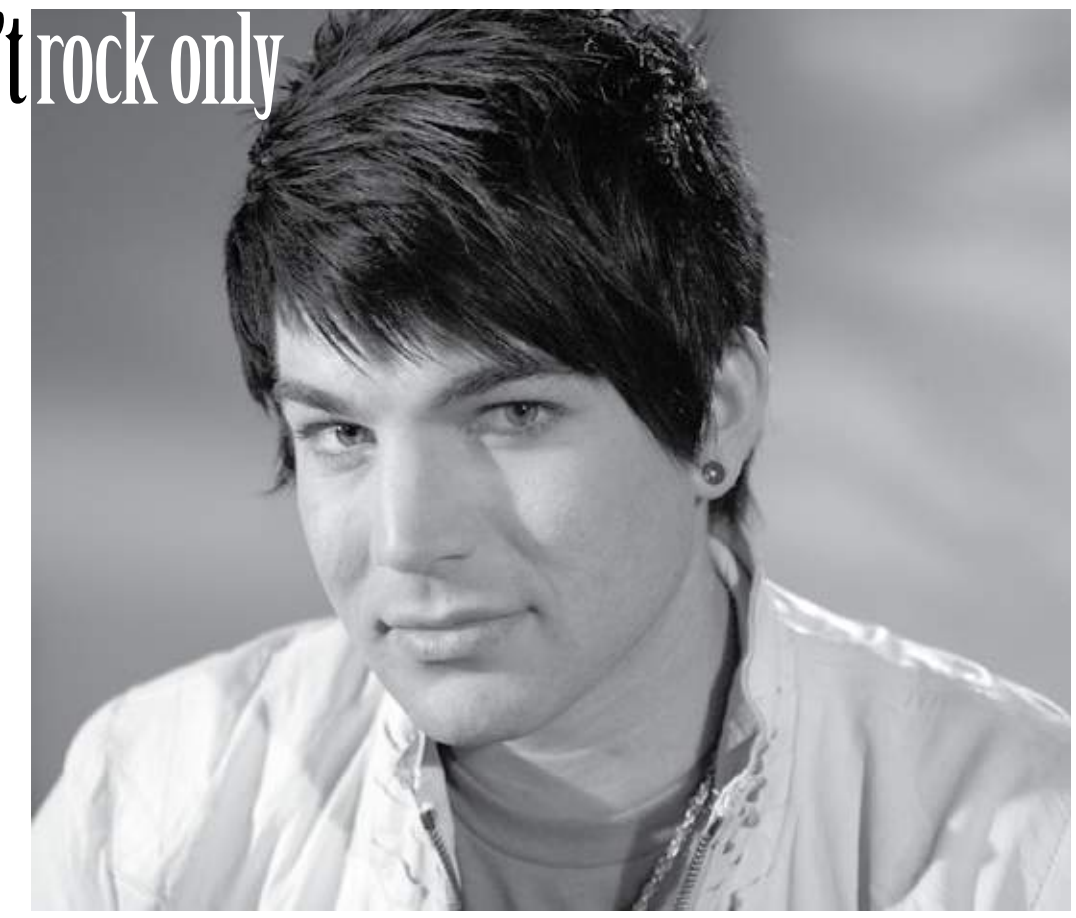
"There's a way to take the glam rock of the '70s and the classic rock of the '70s and kind of modernize it. ... I want it to be produced in a very very current, almost futuristic, way. So we're going to come up with something really fresh," he said.

The musical mix will include "sexy, dance-y, vibe-y" numbers and more emotional songs that "appeal to people that are going through a hard time or don't believe in themselves," he said.

"I want to communicate the liberation that is being comfortable in your own skin and that is being your own person," said Lambert, who has largely kept his personal life under wraps. "And the spirit of being different, and how strong that can make you feel."

Any dream collaborators?

"Madonna would be amazing," he gushes. "I'd love to work with Madonna—I think she's a genius. She has great ideas. Lady GaGa is brilliant. She's got her finger on the pulse. She's the hot thing right now. Katy Perry's amazing, absolutely amazing."



American Idol runner-up Adam Lambert poses for a portrait, Tuesday, May 26, 2009 in New York. AP

Stars react to Calif. court's Prop. 8 decision

LOS ANGELES (AP)—George Takei and his longtime love, Brad Altman, are still legally wed. So are Ellen DeGeneres and Portia De Rossi. Both couples tied the knot during the five-month window when same-sex marriage was legal in California.

But the state Supreme Court's decision Tuesday to uphold Proposition 8, the gay-marriage ban approved by voters in November, made legal nuptials impossible going forward—and Hollywood isn't happy.

AP

Star Trek legend George Takei, aka "Mr. Sulu," right, with husband Brad Altman, pose for a photo with photos from their Sept. 14, 2008 wedding, at their home in Los Angeles on Tuesday, May 26, 2009.

Several of its heavyweights opened their wallets to oppose the measure last year. Steven Spielberg and Kate Capshaw gave $100,000. So did Brad Pitt. DeGeneres made a public service announcement urging voters to oppose the ballot initiative and purchased $100,000 of television commercial time for her ad.

But on Tuesday, celebrities took to the Web.

Kathy Griffin wrote on Twitter—where the court's ruling was among the top topics Tuesday—that she and her 89-year-old mother planned to protest the decision by marching in West Hollywood, Calif. Celebrity blogger Perez Hilton used his site to call the court's decision "wrong wrong wrong!" and urged his readers to protest.

Here's a look at what some other stars had to say about the court's decision:

■ "It seems that the California Supreme Court justices decided to be indecisive," said Takei, who married Altman Sept. 14, 2008. "Our marriage is intact, but this issue is not settled. Inequality is still the rule of the land."

■ "I'm sure you heard the prop 8 news," DeGeneres wrote on Twitter. "One day when everyone is treated with full equality, we'll look back and realize how wrong this was."

■ "Those full of hate and fear will surely be disappointed that 18,000 same sex couples will be living in wedded bliss, kissing their spouses goodnight, checking off those little 'married' boxes on all those forms we fill out nowadays. That's really going to drive them crazy," Melissa Etheridge, who exchanged vows with her longtime partner in a 2003 ceremony, said in a statement. "I am hopeful as I see more and more states turn to the inevitable future of equality, California will get there. Change takes time."

■ "I blame miss california," Margaret Cho wrote on Twitter.

■ "That's just awful," Elton John said in an interview on AccessHollywood.com. "When you see places like Iowa saying yes, there's now five states in America (where same-sex marriage is legal). California is supposed to be a progressive state. It defies logic to me. I'm very disappointed."

■ "This really makes me sad," Kim Kardashian wrote on her blog. "I thought we were more forward thinking than this, and I'm disappointed in the Supreme Court for being so closed minded. Everyone... gay, straight, bisexual, transgendered, EVERYONE should have equal rights to marry who they want to."

■ "Gay and lesbian residents of this state are being denied the same rights, privileges and protections that heterosexual couples have when they marry civilly," Hilton blogged. "That is NOT right! That is not fair! That is wrong wrong wrong! This is about equality!"

In Loving Memory of Our Father, Brother & Uncle

MANUEL CABRERA MAGOFNA

a.k.a. Manny Perez

Born to Life on April 10, 1956
was called to Eternal Rest
on May 21, 2009

In his new life, he now joins his:

Father: Antonio Babauta Magofna
Mother: Martha Sablan Cabrera
Wife: Catalina Seigan Cabrera
Brother: Vicente C. Magofna
Sisters: Maria M. Pialur
Elizabeth M. Hoisington

His memories will live in the hearts of his:

Children: Manuel Charles Cabrera
Gina Genevieve Cabrera
Jeffrey Cabrera Magofna
Stephanie Martha Cabrera
Amber Eve Cabrera
Mila Marie Magofna

Brothers and Sisters:
Catalina M. Stackhouse
Margarita M. Edinger
Ana C. Magofna
Francisco C. Magofna
Antonio C. Magofna

He is additionally survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

Nightly rosary is being held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Antonio C. Magofna in Kagman 3 across Kagman Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

On Friday, May 29. 2009, his remains will be escorted from Commonwealth Health Center to Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag at 8:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10:00 a.m. Interment service will follow immediately at the Tanapag Public Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers

The Family

'Jon & Kate' draws huge audience for season debut

NEW YORK (AP)—"Jon & Kate Plus 8" drew a huge audience for its fifth-season premiere, according to Nielsen Media Research. Boosted by scandal and a media siege, the TLC reality series attracted 9.8 million viewers Monday night—more than double the audience for its fourth-season finale several weeks ago.

"Jon & Kate Plus 8" was already TLC's most popular show as it chronicled the challenges of raising eight young children. But there were newcomers watching Monday who may never have heard of the show until the recent rash of magazine covers and online bulletins.

Jon and Kate Gosselin, the parents of twins and sextuplets, have recently been swamped by media coverage that alleged they had cheated on each other.

The couple continued to deny the allegations on Monday's episode. They acknowledged their marriage is in trouble but lashed out at the media firestorm surrounding them.

"Did I ever think I'd see myself on the front of the tabloids?" Kate said, "or see those words that are there? No. It kills me!"

"I did not sign up for a public scrutiny of everything," said Jon.

However painful for the Gosselins, public scrutiny clearly did its part to make their season comeback an enormous hit.

AP

In this publicity image released by TLC, reality TV stars, Jon Gosselin, right, and his wife Kate Gosselin, from the TLC series, "Jon & Kate Plus 8," are shown in Hawaii.

Promoter: Singer innocent of Braxton scam

PARAMARIBO, Suriname (AP)—A concert promoter testified Tuesday that he alone tried to foist off a Las Vegas-based entertainer as six-time Grammy winner Toni Braxton at a show that has since been dubbed the "Phony Toni" concert.

Angel Ventura, 45, told a judge that Braxton impersonator Trina Johnson-Finn was an unwitting participant of his scheme that tricked people in this tiny South American country into paying up to $53 a ticket for the Feb. 28 concert in Suriname's capital.

Disappointed fans had hoped to see Braxton, who is best known for the hit "Un-break My Heart" and appearances on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars."

"I never said to the prosecutor that Trina Johnson knew beforehand that she was part of a scam," he told Judge Robby Rodriguez on the first day of Johnson-Finn's trial on charges of defrauding fans.

But prosecutors contend Johnson-Finn, who has augmented her 20-year singing career by impersonating various stars as a "tribute artist," attempted to pass herself off as the real Braxton, and that Ventura's testimony does not clear her of involvement in the scam.

The concert was a debacle: Numerous people in the crowd of 3,000 began to jeer and pelt the stage with trash when the singer hit a sour note at the beginning of the second song. She was rushed off the stage to a loud chorus of boos.

Johnson-Finn, clad in a black blouse and skirt, sat calmly during Ventura's testimony.

Her Surinamese lawyer, Kathleen Brandon, told the judge the 41-year-old Nevada woman has been unjustly jailed for nearly three months awaiting her trial and called for her immediate release.

"Ventura told her to go all out as an impersonator and play a role in the whole thing. She thought that everyone knew that she was just an impersonator, but Ventura did not tell anyone in Suriname," Brandon said.

But the judge declined to release Johnson-Finn and adjourned the trial until June 2.

Supporters in Las Vegas have come to Johnson-Finn's defense, waging an Internet campaign on her behalf.

SC judge OKs settlement over James Brown estate

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—More than two years into a protracted battle over how to parcel out James Brown's wealth, a South Carolina judge on Tuesday approved a settlement that gives nearly half of his assets to a charitable trust, about a quarter to his wife and young son, and the rest to Brown's adult children.

The settlement was a contrast to Brown's will and trust, which were called into question soon after the Godfather of Soul died of heart failure Christmas Day 2006. His surviving spouse challenged the will when she was left out, and Brown's children claimed the estate was mismanaged by trustees.

Brown's six adult children bickered with the singer's widow as each fought for a share of his fortune. Ultimately, Brown's grandchildren and needy kids in South Carolina and Georgia will likely get the biggest payback—Brown set up a charitable trust to pay for their education.

"From the perspective of the charitable beneficiaries, the risks of not approving the settlement agreement are substantial," Judge Jack Early wrote in his order.

The exact value of Brown's assets has not been made public. However, during numerous court hearings since his death, there have been claims of unpaid debts, inadequate accounting and misappropriated money.

Attorneys have said the soul singer's accounts have little money in them. Last July, some of the entertainer's possessions were auctioned for $850,000, partly to pay for debt. The future income—from movies, royalties and the sale of Brown's likeness—is what's really at stake, attorneys have said.

AP

In this Feb. 13, 2005 file photo, James Brown arrives with his wife Tomi Rae Brown for the 47th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

The judge noted that it took more than two years of estate administration and millions of dollars in fees just to get to the point of considering a settlement.

The settlement establishes that Tomi Rae Hynie Brown, a former backup singer to Brown, is the surviving spouse and her son, James Brown II, is his child. Brown's attorneys had claimed she was not Brown's widow because she was still married to another man when she and Brown said their vows in 2001.

Soon after Brown's death at an Atlanta hospital at age 73, Hynie Brown was locked out of his South Carolina home—photographers captured her sobbing and grasping iron gates to the property's entrance.

"I am so relieved and happy that the court has approved this settlement," Brown's widow said in a statement to the AP. "I want to be able to work with the trustees and other Brown family members to promote James Brown's legacy. My son James and I are grateful to the judge and hope this nightmare is finally over."

The settlement combines Brown's will, trust and other assets, according to the judge's order. The attorney general's office in South Carolina, Brown's widow and his six adult children signed off on the settlement.

"It has been a struggle, but God has blessed us and we are thankful," Brown's adult daughter, Deanna Brown, told the AP. "We look forward to working towards the goals of our father by providing education scholarships for impoverished students and his own grandchildren and making his home a museum for the world to come and see."

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Terminator Salvation

Friday		4:15	7:30	10:00
Sat & Sun	1:10	4:15	7:30	10:00
Monday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Tue thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Christian Bale, Sam Worthington
Action, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The year is 2018. Judgment Day has come and gone, leveling modern civilization. An army of Terminators roams the post-apocalyptic landscape, killing or collecting humans where they hide in the desolate cities and deserts. But small groups of survivors have organized into a Resistance, hiding in underground bunkers and striking when they can against an enemy force that vastly outnumbers them.

Night at the Museum 2

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:40
Sat & Sun	1:15	4:10	7:15	9:40
Monday	1:15	4:10	7:15	
Tue thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Den Stiller, Amy Adams
Comedy, Sequel • Rated PG

Synopsis
Night has fallen upon the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. The guides have gone home, the lights are out, the school kids are tucked in their beds, yet something incredible is stirring as former night guard Larry Daley finds himself lured into his biggest, most imagination-boggling adventure yet in which history truly comes alive. In this second installment of the Night at the Museum saga, Larry faces a battle so epic it could only unfold in the corridors of the world's largest museum.

The Soloist

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:30
Sat & Sun	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:30
Monday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Tue thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Jamie Foxx, Robert Downey, Jr.
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

Dance Flick

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:55
Sat & Sun	1:25	4:30	7:25	9:55
Monday	1:25	4:30	7:25	
Tue thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Damon Wayans, Jr., Craig Wayans
Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

★ ★ ★

Angels and Demons

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:50
Sat & Sun	1:20	4:20	7:05	9:50
Monday	1:20	4:20	7:05	
Tue thru Thurs		4:20	7:05	

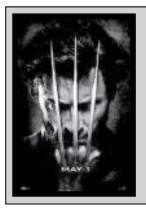
Tom Hanks, Ewan McGregor
Thriller, Religion • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
When Robert Langdon discovers evidence of the resurgence of an ancient secret brotherhood known as the Illuminati—the most powerful underground organization in history—he also faces a deadly threat to the existence of the secret organization's most despised enemy: the Catholic Church. When Langdon learns that the clock is ticking on an unstoppable Illuminati time bomb, he jets to Rome, where he joins forces with Vittoria Vetra, a beautiful and enigmatic Italian scientist.

Star Trek

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Sat & Sun	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tue thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Chris Pine, Winona Ryder
Sci-Fi, Adaptation • Rated PG 13



X-Men Origins:Wolverine

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Sat & Sun	1:05	4:05	7:10	9:35
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:10	
Tue thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

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Gokey says he's willing to try 'Dancing'

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Danny Gokey isn't going to let a few put-downs keep him from dancing.

The 29-year-old former church music director and "American Idol" finalist says he'd like to try "Dancing With The Stars," in part because the "Idol" judges regularly criticized his moves.

Gokey was back in Milwaukee for a free event Tuesday night. He wanted to thank his hometown for its support and raise awareness and money for his charity—Sophia's Heart Foundation.

He says his first priorities are the foundation and making his album, for which he's already started writing songs. But he says he would consider doing reality TV if it gives the foundation more exposure.

The charity, named for his late wife, will provide music and arts programs for kids.

Elizabeth Taylor home from hospital, feels 'great'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Elizabeth Taylor says she's home from the hospital and "feeling great."

The 77-year-old actress sent a tweet to her fans on the Twitter micro-blogging site Tuesday, announcing she was home after a hospital stay. She thanked them "for all the love and support."

Publicist Dick Guttman said Taylor was admitted Friday to an undisclosed hospital "for a routine visit."

Taylor, an avid Twitter user, had sent a tweet Friday asking a friend to get her puppy past hospital security.

AP
In this Sept. 25, 2008 file photo, Elizabeth Taylor arrives for the 26th Annual Macy's Passport to Fashion gala in Santa Monica, Calif.

Ed McMahon agrees to settle lawsuit over his broken neck

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ed McMahon has ended his civil case against those he blamed for his broken neck. Attorneys for the former "Tonight" show sidekick have in recent weeks settled lawsuits against the hospital and doctors that McMahon claimed had failed to spot his broken neck and then failed to properly repair it.

McMahon

On Thursday, attorneys for the 86-year-old TV personality filed for dismissal of his lawsuit against billionaire Robert Day and his wife. McMahon blamed conditions at the Days' home for his fall in March 2008.

Terms of the settlements haven't been disclosed in court records.

After the fall, McMahon suffered a series of financial setbacks. He was hospitalized earlier this year for treatment of pneumonia and other ailments.

Philip Seymour Hoffman plays Iago in 'Othello'

Seymour

NEW YORK (AP)—The Public Theater says Philip Seymour Hoffman is set to play Iago in an off-Broadway revival of "Othello" next season.

An Oscar winner for the film "Capote," Hoffman will star as one of Shakespeare's most conniving villains in the production at New York University's Skirball (SKUR'-ball) Center from Sept. 12 to Oct. 4.

John Ortiz (OR'-tease), Hoffman's longtime collaborator at the LAByrinth Theater, will play Othello. The production will be a joint presentation of the Public and LAByrinth.

Also on the Public's schedule for its 2009-2010 season are

AP

MEMORABILIA AUCTION

This image released by Julien's Auctions shows an Elvis Presley autograph photograph inscribed to Dr. Nick by Elvis, "To Dr. Nick, My friend and Doctor. Sincerely, Elvis Presley." Julien's Auctions Summer Entertainment Sale will feature memorabilia from Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley on June 26 and June 27, 2009, in Las Vegas.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Alice Munro wins $95,000 prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Alice Munro, the revered Canadian short story writer, has won the Man Booker International Prize for lifetime achievement. The award, announced Tuesday, is worth around $95,000. Munro, 77, is known for such collections as "Friend of My Youth" and "The View from Castle Rock." Her short story "The Bear Came Over the Mountain" was adapted into the acclaimed film "Away from Her," starring Julie Christie. Previous winners of the Booker international prize, presented every two years, include Albania's Ismail Kadare and Nigerian Chinua Achebe.

Broadway grosses a bit higher in '08-'09 season

NEW YORK (AP)—Even during a recession, Broadway managed to hold its own. Grosses for plays and musicals during the 2008-2009 season were a bit higher than the previous year. That set a new record, although attendance slipped during the 52-week period. The Broadway League, an industry trade association, says the season's 43 shows grossed about $943.3 million, compared to $937.5 the year before. It was the highest number of new productions since 50 opened during the 1982-1983 season. Attendance was 12.15 million, compared to 12.27 million during the 2007-2008 season. The League's figures were approximate after factoring in estimated grosses for the now-closed "Young Frankenstein." The Mel Brooks musical, which folded in January after a year's run, did not release its weekly grosses.

Montgomery Gentry invited to join Grand Ole Opry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Montgomery Gentry is set to become the newest member of the Grand Ole Opry. Opry member Charlie Daniels surprised the duo on stage Tuesday by asking them to join. They will be formally inducted on June 23. Since their 1999 debut, Eddie Montgomery and Troy Gentry have had several hits with their Southern rock style of country. Their most popular songs include "Something to Be Proud Of," "Lucky Man," "Roll with Me" and their latest, "One in Every Crowd." Opry General Manager Pete Fisher says the Kentucky natives have deep respect for the long-running country music show and its legacy.

Son of 'Hour of Power' founder starts own TV show

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—The son of "Hour of Power" televangelist Robert H. Schuller Sr. is launching his own show on AmericanLife TV after acquiring the network in a partnership with ComStar Media Fund LP. Robert A. Schuller Jr. made the announcement Tuesday after a highly public split with his famous father late last year. In a news release, Schuller Jr. says his new TV series will debut on AmericanLife this fall. Schuller will assume joint oversight of the network with ComStar president and Chief Executive Chris Wyatt. The two did not disclose financial terms. Wyatt described AmericanLife as family values programming without being an explicitly religious network.

Wife frets her house doesn't measure up in tony suburb

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband is threatening to leave and my 9-year-old daughter is distraught because I am embarrassed about our home and our cars. We live in an affluent suburb, but we're not one of the rich families. My daughter wants to invite friends from school over, but I'm mortified about their parents seeing our home or cars.

I know these things shouldn't matter. I love my husband, but he says I'm ruining our daughter's self-esteem and disrespecting him by being embarrassed by a life he works hard to provide. What's wrong with me, and how can I get past this? I don't want to lose my family.

EMBARRASSED IN OHIO

DEAR EMBARRASSED: What makes a home warm and welcoming isn't whether it has been professionally decorated. Your problem isn't that you're ashamed of your house or cars. It's that you lack confidence in who you are. Your feelings stem less from what material things you lack than misplaced priorities.

When your daughter's friends visit, cookies in the oven, a welcoming smile and a willing ear if one of them needs a trusted adult in whom to confide will be more appreciated than whether your couch is new or there's a late-model car in the driveway. Many children from families who supposedly "have everything" are starved for plain old-fashioned personal attention.

I often recommend psychological counseling, but in your case, perhaps you would be better served by talking to a spiritual adviser about the difficulty you're having with appreciating how much you have for which to be thankful.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I met "Greta" when I was in the Army Reserves. We fell in love, despite the fact that her parents disapproved of me. I come from a working-class background and Greta's family was considerably more well-off. We didn't care—we wanted a future together.

Greta told me she had broken up with her former boyfriend because he was domineering. She assured me the relationship was over, and I believed her.

Shortly before I was discharged, Greta told me she was carrying my baby. I left for home with plans to send for her and marry her before our child was born. I lined up a job and a place to live. Several months later, Greta phoned to say she had had a baby girl. She said her parents had made her give our daughter up for adoption and asked me never to contact her again.

I honored her wishes, but I worried for years about Greta and our child. Eventually I married and had two daughters and a son. Five years ago, with the help of my children who are technologically savvy, we located my lost daughter, "Lily," and welcomed her into the family.

To cement our relationship, I had a paternity test performed recently and was shocked to learn I am NOT Lily's father. Greta still insists that I am, but DNA doesn't lie. Greta put my name on Lily's birth certificate. Lily blames herself for this mess, which is unfounded, and now says it's too painful to see me and my family again. I am so sorry for Lily and her children, who thought they were my grandchildren. What can we do?

CRUSHED IN NEW YORK

DEAR CRUSHED: Write Lily and tell her that you were overjoyed when you found her, and that blood-related or not, you will always love her and her children. Perhaps if she reads it she will realize that in some cases we build families not just from DNA, but also from mutual need and caring. That's all you can do for now.

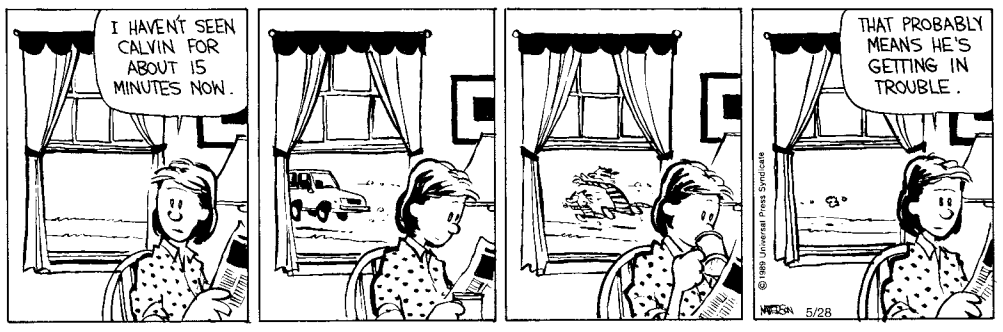
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I HAVEN'T SEEN CALVIN FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES NOW.
THAT PROBABLY MEANS HE'S GETTING IN TROUBLE.
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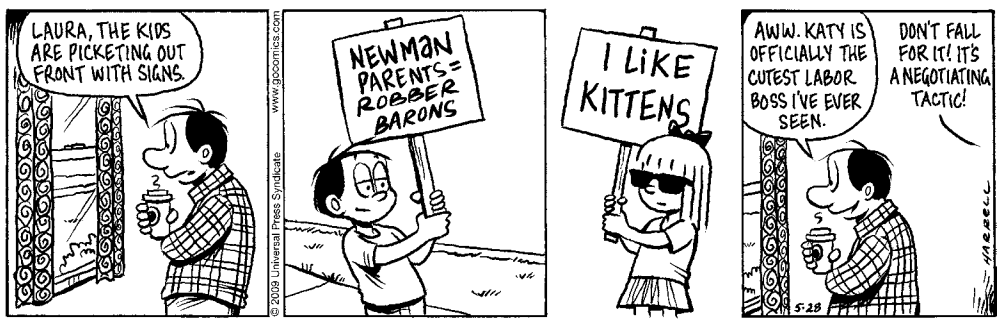
5/28

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


LAURA, THE KIDS ARE PICKETING OUT FRONT WITH SIGNS.
NEWMAN PARENTS= ROBBER BARONS
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I LIKE KITTENS
AWW. KATY IS OFFICIALLY THE CUTEST LABOR BOSS I'VE EVER SEEN.
DON'T FALL FOR IT! IT'S A NEGOTIATING TACTIC!
5-28

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

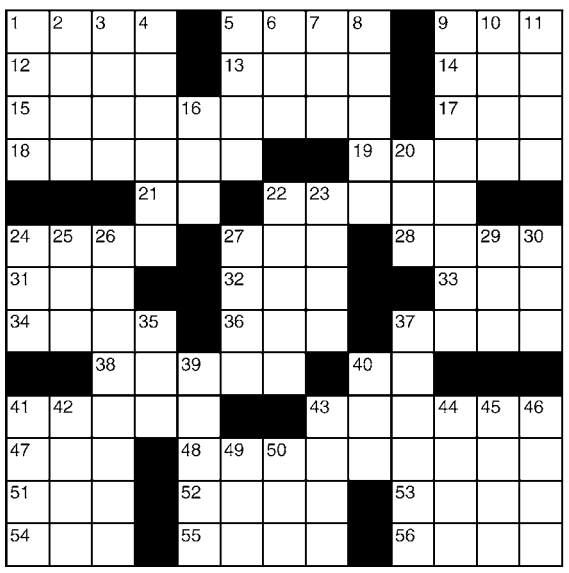
ACROSS
1 "Dragnet" star
5 Steffi of tennis fame
9 Society newcomer
12 Car bar
13 "Mona —"
14 Buck-eyes' sch.
15 Focus on
17 Miss at a barn dance
18 Spa
19 Terrible
21 Former partner
22 City of India
24 "Lion King" baddie
27 Geological period
28 Shrek, for one
31 Tin Man's need
32 — de deux
33 Towel designation
34 Hairless
36 Lamb's dam
37 Put an end to
38 Insurgent
40 Lindbergh book
41 Pigs
43 Make fizzy
47 Trail behind
48 "Don't let go!"
51 "That's 19-Across!"
52 Dumbfounded
53 Diva's delivery
54 Encountered
55 Trawler gear
56 Glaswegian girl

DOWN
1 Cleanse
2 Fair, for short
3 Rorschach figure
4 Improved
5 Smooth-talking
6 Tractor-trailer
7 Blond shade
8 Deadly
9 It may include a pair of aces
10 Isaac's eldest
11 Wall Street optimist
16 Illumination measure
20 Terse question
22 Speak slowly?
23 Facility
24 Weep loudly
25 Spy-novel grp.
26 Fine
27 Duel tool
29 Carnival city
30 Kreskin's claim
35 Lair
37 Soap opera, e.g.
39 "Borstal Boy" author
40 Drenched
41 Poor area of town
42 Carry on
43 Tosses in
44 Taj Mahal city
45 Anything but that
46 Greek vowels
49 Have bills
50 Allow

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	F	R	O	■	L	A	B	■	G	E	A	R
R	I	O	T	■	I	D	O	■	R	A	C	E
C	A	S	H	F	L	O	W	■	E	T	N	A
S	T	E	E	L	Y	■	E	R	A	S	E	R
■	■	■	R	A	P	■	D	I	S	C	■	■
S	I	B	■	W	A	S	■	M	E	R	G	E
H	O	O	T	■	D	O	H	■	D	O	U	R
E	N	D	O	W	■	N	O	S	■	W	Y	E
■	■	Y	U	R	T	■	O	U	T	■	■	■
E	M	B	R	Y	O	■	S	E	E	T	H	E
D	E	L	I	■	Q	U	I	Z	S	H	O	W
E	R	O	S	■	U	S	E	■	T	O	R	E
N	E	W	T	■	E	A	R	■	S	U	N	S

Yesterday's answer 5-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joseph Cross, 23; Jesse Bradford, 30; Kylie Minogue, 41; Gladys Knight, 65

Happy Birthday: Learning should be at the top of your list of things to do this year. Your knowledge coupled with experience will carry you forward. Keep your life simple and your plans uncluttered and stick to your budget. An interesting relationship will introduce you to a new way of life. Your numbers are 2, 7, 15, 24, 31, 34, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): There is an opportunity coming that you don't want to miss. There is much to learn through the experiences that are unfolding. Connect with people and many contributions will come your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You may want to think about what you say before blurting it out. There will be a price to pay if you are too abrupt or judgmental. You have to give the benefit of a doubt if you want to avoid embarrassment. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): This is no time to settle for less than what you want. Be firm, aggressive and precise about what you need in your life. Travel plans should be made. The chance to visit someone you miss or want to get to know better will be available. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put your ideas into play and you may be able to make extra cash. A change of plans will be to your benefit, so don't make a fuss if someone pulls out of a deal. Brute force may not work but emotional tactics will. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You have the finesse to pull anything off you put your mind to. Don't let anyone come between you and a plan you have. Stick to your own path and the journey will turn out to your benefit. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't make sudden financial maneuvers. It will pay to take your time and see how you can best help your own interests. Someone is likely to work behind your back, trying to take something that is rightfully yours. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You are heading for victory, so don't wimp out now because you are lazy or figure things will coast along without sweat and tears. This is an ideal time to push your ideas and expand your awareness. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be careful not to let your emotions influence your actions. Problems at home and at work will develop if you aren't honest with yourself and others about what you can do. You have too much on the line to make a fatal mistake now. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put your money on the line if you believe in a project you are involved in. An investment will bring you the assets you've been hoping for. Change at home may be due to insensitivity. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): There is too much on the line for you to make a rash decision because someone is pushing you to do so. Slow down and consider all your options. Home and family will need serious attention if you don't want to pay for foolish mistakes. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll be pulled in a direction that may be confusing at first. If someone is trying to influence you, back away and consider what's in it for this person before you give in to what's being offered. A greater interest in someone from your past must be evaluated honestly. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You can make some interesting choices regarding your next move and the people you are going to associate with. Before you get too involved, weigh the pros and cons. You may have overlooked a very important factor. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You can be very detached and yet extremely passionate. You are open-minded but strong-willed. You are not afraid of change.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7			2					3
	2			8				
			7			1		
5		4		2				
	9		5	6	4		1	
				9		5		6
		5			6			
				1			9	
3					5			2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	3	8	1	5	9	6	4	7
7	6	1	2	4	8	5	9	3
5	9	4	7	6	3	8	2	1
3	8	6	9	2	5	7	1	4
9	7	5	4	8	1	2	3	6
1	4	2	3	7	6	9	8	5
8	2	7	6	1	4	3	5	9
4	5	3	8	9	7	1	6	2
6	1	9	5	3	2	4	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHINA'S MYSTIC WATERS **Solution: 8 letters**

S	I	G	L	S	(M)	V	A	L	L	E	Y	N	B	W
N	L	A	S	(I)	F	O	R	E	S	T	U	A	O	S
G	E	A	(S)	N	I	A	T	N	U	O	M	N	I	M
S	R	(T)	M	N	A	E	R	A	R	B	U	C	A	I
G	H	E	S	I	O	C	E	I	O	O	H	P	G	R
S	I	O	E	I	N	B	L	O	S	U	L	N	G	R
J	N	R	A	N	L	A	A	E	A	E	E	E	N	O
I	O	I	L	L	N	G	M	N	A	H	E	R	O	R
A	C	Z	A	G	S	O	F	T	Z	R	B	U	G	I
L	E	E	K	R	A	L	I	U	U	A	N	T	I	V
I	R	C	E	F	O	G	H	Z	I	E	D	A	Z	E
N	O	A	U	W	E	S	A	H	S	W	A	N	N	R
G	S	T	E	R	C	I	E	C	W	O	R	R	A	S
Z	A	R	U	P	P	E	O	N	E	D	L	O	G	P
R	S	H	A	L	E	S	L	L	A	F	I	V	E	S

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Animals, Area, Arrow, Azure, Baihe, Bamboo, Beauty, Bonsai, Clear, Falls, Five, Flower, Forest, Ganzigonggai, Glisten, Golden, Grass, Green, Jialing, Lake, Maple, Min Mountain, Mirror, Mist, Nature, Nuorilang, Panda, Pearl, Rains, Rhinoceros, Rivers, Rize, Shales, Shoals, Shuzheng, Sichuan, Spruce, Swan, Tiger, Tufa, UNESCO, Valley, Wonuosemo, Zaru

Yesterday's Answer: Hunts

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement of closure. Doko (Saipan) Inc- P.O. Box 501847, Saipan, MP 96950 has closed its local office. Any outstanding unpaid charges should be sent to above address by 06/01/09.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Howard leads Magic to OT win over Cavs

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Superman swooped in just in time.

Dwight Howard scored 10 points in overtime and the Orlando Magic, raining down 3-pointers like a Florida thunderstorm, withstood 44 points and a last-second shot by LeBron James for a 116-114 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday night to take a 3-1 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

Howard finished with 27 points, 14 rebounds and again made his free throws—7 of 9—for the resilient Magic, who made a team record 17 3-pointers—11 after halftime.

Orlando can earn its first trip to the NBA finals since 1995 with a win in Game 5 on Thursday night in Cleveland.

Rafer Alston added 26 points and Rashard Lewis and Mickael Pietrus had 17 each for the Magic.

James was spectacular again, adding 12 rebounds and seven assists, but he had eight turnovers for the Cavs, whose season of seasons is slipping away.

"I had to get myself going. My teammates found me in the right place to score and I kept scoring," Howard said of his overtime effort that included three dunks, a tip-in and two free throws. "I hate losing, especially on my home floor. We kept fighting for the win."

After Lewis made one of two free throws with 3.2 seconds left to give the Magic the 116-114 lead, the Cavs had one final chance.

And every person inside Amway Arena and millions watching on TV knew who was going to get it—James.

The league MVP, who saved the Cavaliers with a 3-pointer at the final horn in Game 2, was double-teamed on the inbounds pass but still managed to get free. He came back and got the ball before dribbling into the frontcourt as Magic fans held their collective breath.

James then rose from 35 feet, and with a clean look at the basket, sent his shot toward the rim.

It fell short, and Cleveland's dream season may be next. James, who played the entire second half OT, has scored more than 40 in three games in the series. Cleveland is 0-3 in them.

"He didn't look tired. He just nearly hit a 50-footer from halfcourt," Howard said of James, exaggerating the distance a bit. "I love playing against him."

Cleveland's Mo Williams, who guaranteed the Cavs would win Game 4 and the series, scored 18 points, none after the third quarter. Delonte West added 17 and Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 12 for the Cavaliers.

Following the game, Magic fans chanted "One more win."

History is on the Magic's side heading into Game 5. Teams with a 3-1 lead are a staggering 182-8 in series dating to 1947.

Lewis' catch-and-shoot 3-pointer on an inbounds play with 4.1 seconds left in regulation gave the Magic, who attempted 38 3s, a 100-98 lead.

Cleveland set up a clear-out play for James, who drove the right side and was tripped in the lane by Pietrus with .5 seconds to play.

James swished his first free throw attempt, and then after a long delay, he made his second, which danced delicately on the rim for what seemed like an eternity before finally falling through.

Orlando called a timeout and tried a lob play for Howard, who was ridden out under the basket by Anderson Varejao. Both players tumbled out of bounds, and although there was enough contact for the officials to call two or three fouls, there was no whistle.

Howard screamed in protest, pleading his case to anyone who would listen.

"Are you serious?" Howard said, turning to the media section. "If that was LeBron ... "

Cleveland's Daniel Gibson made two free throws to open overtime, and then it was Howard's turn.

He dunked the first two times he touched it, shaking the backboard each time and Orlando opened what looked to be an insurmountable six-point lead with 1:11 left on Howard's tip-in.

James wasn't done, though.

He made a left-handed scoop, two free throws and an are-you-kidding-me? 3 while falling into Orlando's bench with 4.6 seconds to go.

The Cavs put Lewis on the line, and when he short-armed his first free throw, the Cavs had life.

However, James couldn't repeat his Game 2 miracle and must now hope he and the Cavs can regroup at home, where they are 43-3 this season.

Alston, acquired at the trading deadline from Houston after point guard Jameer Nelson suffered a season-ending shoulder injury, made three 3-pointers—one banked in—and scored 15 points in the third quarter with James guarding him as the Magic went into the fourth down just 79-78.

A New York streetball legend known as "Skip To My Lou" before he came to the NBA, Alston was Orlando's main offensive threat as the Cavs let James roam the paint to help out on Howard down low. The strategy backfired as Alston riddled the Cavs with jumpers.

Howard picked up his sixth technical foul for taunting Varejao after a layup in the fourth quarter. Cleveland's forward had draped his arms around Howard in a failed attempt to stop him from scoring, but Howard muscled in his shot before getting his T.

He'll have behave himself from here out. A seventh technical would earn him an automatic 1-game suspension in the playoffs—a thought that will keep coach Stan Van Gundy, already a worry wart, up at night.

"I was just so emotional because I made the basket, I was not taunting or talking at anyone," Howard said. "We get emotional on the court and they shouldn't give a technical for that. I hope they take a look at it."

AP

Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard reacts as the Magic defeat the Cleveland Cavaliers 116-114 in overtime during Game 4 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals Tuesday, May 26, 2009, in Orlando, Fla.

Williams needs 9 match points to win in Paris

PARIS (AP)—Serena Williams entered Tuesday with a 37-0 record in the first round at Grand Slam tournaments. She also began the day with a four-match losing streak, the longest of her career. Williams focused on the second of those statistics, the more discouraging one. And while she never appeared truly in danger of coming out on the wrong end against 100th-ranked Klara Zakopalova, there were times when it did seem Williams simply could not wrap things up.

Twice, Williams served for the match and was broken. Eight times, Williams was a single point from victory and couldn't complete the task. Finally, on match point No. 9, Zakopalova pushed a forehand wide to seal Williams' 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-4 victory, leaving the 10-time Grand Slam champion screaming and hopping at the baseline in a mix of joy and relief.

"I was just desperate for a win," the second-seeded Williams said, "and I think it pretty much showed in my game."

Whether it was the result of rust or a lingering knee injury or the swirling wind that carried debris from the stands onto the court, Williams' mistakes kept coming. She finished with the same number of unforced errors as winners, 35, wound up wasting 13 of 20 break points and put only 55 percent of her first serves in play.

Williams called her performance "horrendous," and said: "I just played junior tennis—or even worse."

All in all, it was a 2 1/2-hour struggle for the 2002 French Open champion. Afterward, she went on court with older sister Venus to play doubles, a match suspended in the third set at about 9:45 p.m. because of darkness.

It was an anticlimactic end to a Day 3 that brought the first rain of the tournament, a two-hour-plus delay that interrupted easy victories for No. 5 Jelena Jankovic and No. 7 Svetlana Kuznetsova.

The only newsworthy upsets might not necessarily count as significant surprises, actually, given that they involved U.S. men losing to Argentines: No. 15 James Blake lost to qualifier Leonardo Mayer 7-6 (6), 7-5, 6-2, and No. 22 Mardy Fish was beaten by Maximo Gonzalez 6-3, 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (4).

Bobby Reynolds lost in straight sets to No. 11 Gael Monfils of France, making U.S. men 2-7 in the first round. Tuesday's winners included No. 4 Novak Djokovic—whose opponent, Nicolas Lapentti, quit after hurting his ankle—No. 5 Juan Martin del Potro, No. 9 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and 2003 champion Juan Carlos Ferrero.

Ferrero needed five sets to beat 2006 semifinalist Ivan Ljubicic, and while that and other matches might have interested fans, nothing going on around Roland Garros came close to the potential shock value of a loss by Williams.

Set aside, for a moment, that Zakopalova beat Williams on clay last month at Marbella, Spain, part of the American's recent skid on the slow surface. Instead, consider this: The Czech player is 7-24 at Grand Slam tournaments.

"I feel very disappointed," Zakopalova said. "She's Serena."

Well, yes, she is, but she didn't play like Serena for long stretches Tuesday, including when she fell behind 3-0 in the second set. Right after that, though, Williams won five consecutive games—including 10 points in a row—to go ahead 5-3.

Seemingly back in control, Williams slipped again into sloppy play.

"It just happens," she said. "It shouldn't happen at my stage in my career, but it did."

In the next game, Williams wasted five match points, including a marvelous 32-stroke exchange that ended when she sailed a forehand wide as the pitch of her grunts rose by an octave at a time.

Still up 5-4, still a game from victory, Williams double-faulted and was broken.

"I probably should have closed it out," Williams acknowledged, "but I just didn't, and I couldn't."

An errant forehand by Williams capped the tiebreaker and sent the match to a third set, where she held three more match points with Zakopalova serving at 5-2. But with Williams playing tentatively, Zakopalova erased those three chances, too, then broke to 5-4.

By now, the crowd at Court Suzanne Lenglen was backing the underdog, chanting "Kla-ra!" and giving Williams a hard time when she'd question calls.

"They don't really pull for me a lot here," Williams said. "That's fine."

Eventually, she came through, gritting her teeth and dealing with those spectators, her own shaky play, her balky knee, the 50-degree weather, the upset-minded opponent. Some might figure this showing portends trouble in Paris, but Williams' father—who also coaches her—took an optimistic view.

"I don't see trouble. What I see is a champion that found a way to win on a day that she didn't play good," Richard Williams said. "See, in order to be a champion, you have to win when you should lose."

Greinke goes to 8-1 as Royals beat Tigers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Zack Greinke struck out eight while pitching his fifth complete game and Mitch Maier drove in three runs after coming off the bench, leading the Kansas City Royals past the Detroit Tigers 6-1 Tuesday night.

Greinke (8-1), who leads the majors in ERA, complete games and shutouts (two), allowed six hits and one first-inning run. For the rest of the night, his varied assortment of 98 mph fastballs and corner-biting breaking pitches dealt nothing but zeros to a Detroit lineup that scored 13 runs the day before.

AP

Kansas City Royals starting pitcher Zack Greinke delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers, Tuesday, May 26, 2009, in Kansas City, Mo.

Rangers 7, Yankees 3

At Arlington, Texas, Chris Davis homered twice and Jarrod Saltalamacchia made up for a rough game behind the plate by driving in the go-ahead run, sending the Rangers to a victory over the Yankees.

The start was held up 2 hours, 24 minutes because of rain. Due to the delay, the Yankees knew that Boston had lost, which meant a win would've tied them with the Red Sox for first place in the AL East. But New York fell behind 3-0 and never led—despite stealing a season-high five bases off Saltalamacchia and getting two more free bases on a passed ball and a wild pitch from Texas starter Kevin Millwood.

Orioles 7, Blue Jays 2

At Baltimore, Aubrey Huff, Adam Jones and Nolan Reimold homered, right-hander Jason Berken won his major league debut and the Orioles defeated Toronto to stretch the Blue Jays' losing streak to eight games.

Only 10,130 fans—the smallest crowd in the 18-year history of Camden Yards—showed up on a miserable night. The temperature dipped into the low 50s and a steady mist swirled through the stadium from the outset.

Indians 5, Rays 1

At Cleveland, Carl Pavano won for the fifth time in six starts and Ryan Garko hit one of four homers for the Indians in a win over the Rays.

Asdrubal Cabrera, Kelly Shoppach and Mark DeRosa also connected for the Indians, who won for the fifth time in seven games and earned their 15th consecutive home win over the Rays since Sept. 29, 2005.

Twins 5, Red Sox 2

At Minneapolis, Justin Morneau's three-run homer capped a five-run fifth inning for Minnesota against Boston starter Jon Lester, and the Twins beat the Red Sox.

Nick Blackburn(notes) (4-2) struck out a career-high seven in seven innings for Minnesota, yielding a double and a walk to new No. 6 hitter David Ortiz, and the suddenly powerful Twins set up Morneau's shot with the small ball they're more familiar with.

White Sox 4, Angels 2

At Anaheim, Calif., Jayson Nix homered twice, Bartolo Colon pitched effectively into the seventh inning against his former team and the White Sox beat the Angels.

Nix, who had been 0 for 7 on Chicago's road trip, hit solo shots in the fifth and seventh for his first career multihomer game. Scott Linebrink earned his first save of the season for Chicago, which beat the Angels for the second consecutive night.

Athletics 4, Mariners 3

At Oakland, Calif., Jason Giambi's two-run single capped a four-run rally in the seventh inning, and the Athletics rallied for a victory over the Mariners.

A's starter Dallas Braden (4-5) was unexpectedly rewarded for battling through seven innings of nine-hit ball when his teammates pounded Seattle relievers Miguel Batista (2-1) and Mark Lowe, who wasted six scoreless innings by Jarrod Washburn.

Reds 6, Astros 4

At Cincinnati, Joey Votto hit a two-run homer in the seventh—an inning after right-hander Roy Oswalt failed to hold a lead against the team he's beaten like no other—and the Cincinnati Reds rallied for a 6-4 victory Tuesday night that sent the Houston Astros to their sixth straight loss.

Votto's homer off Tim Byrdak (0-1) snapped a 4-all tie and sent the Reds to their third straight win, which matches their season high.

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 5

At Phoenix, Max Scherzer struck out 10 and drove in two runs, Chris Young made a leaping catch at the fence for the final out and the Diamondbacks held off San Diego to snap the Padres' 10-game winning streak.

The Diamondbacks nearly blew a six-run lead for the second straight day. On Monday, they let the Padres rally from a 7-1 deficit in the eighth for a 9-7 victory in 10 innings.

Mets 6, Nationals 1

At New York, Livan Hernandez shut down Ryan Zimmerman and the Nationals, pitching the New York Mets' first complete game of the season in a win over Washington.

Hernandez (4-1) worked around nine hits in going the distance for the 46th time in his career, most recently in May 2008 with Minnesota.

Phillies 5, Marlins 3

At Philadelphia, Joe Blanton had a career-high 11 strikeouts in seven scoreless innings, and the Phillies held on to beat the Marlins.

Blanton (3-3) allowed five hits in his best outing since last August. Brad Lidge pitched out of jam in the ninth to earn his ninth save in 13 chances. Lidge, who was 48-for-48 last year, including the postseason, blew consecutive save opportunities against the New York Yankees last weekend.

Cubs 6, Pirates 1, 5 innings

At Chicago, Sean Marshall allowed four hits and singled in a run, Kosuke Fukudome homered and the Cubs beat the Pirates to snap an eight-game losing streak on a rain-shortened night.

Marshall (3-3) tied a season-high with six strikeouts before the game was called with none out in the top of the sixth following a delay of 1 hour, 2 minutes, and the two-time defending NL Central champions ended their longest slide in three years.

Cardinals 8, Brewers 1

At Milwaikee, Adam Wainwright hit one of four Cardinals homers and struck out a career-high nine in seven innings, lifting St. Louis to a win over the Brewers.

Nick Stavinoha, Colby Rasmus and Chris Duncan also homered for the Cardinals to snap a four-game skid against their NL Central rivals.

Dodgers 7, Rockies 1

At Denver, Eric Milton allowed one run in five innings for his first win in nearly three years and Casey Blake hit a three-run double in the fifth, leading the Dodgers to a win over the Rockies.

Milton (1-0) struck out three and walked none in helping the Dodgers to their seventh win in eight meetings with the Rockies. He hadn't won since beating St. Louis on Aug. 8, 2006, for the Cincinnati Reds.

Giants 4, Braves 0

At San Francisco, Tim Lincecum pitched eight sharp innings to win for the first time in four starts, and the Giants beat the Braves.

Aaron Rowand hit a two-run double in the second and Edgar Renteria singled in two runs moments later to stake Lincecum to an early lead that held up. The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner looked just like the dominant pitcher he was in 2008, striking out eight and walking two.

Pats' Tom Brady at first formal practice since knee injury

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Tom Brady practiced with the New England Patriots for the first time Tuesday since suffering a season-ending knee injury in last year's opening game.

Brady and nearly the entire team participated in the first of four days of this week's organized team activities, Patriots spokesman Stacey James said.

The first three days of OTAs were held last week for young players and others signed as free agents in the offseason who needed more time to get used to the playbook. About 50 players, roughly half the team, took part in those. The sessions are voluntary.

The only media access for this week's sessions is Thursday. James said Tuesday that Brady threw passes and did other activities during his first formal practice with the club since he suffered a torn left knee ligament midway through the first quarter of the Patriots 17-10 win over the Kansas City Chiefs.

The Patriots plan a total of 12 OTA days, two fewer than the maximum allowed by the NFL. Players do not wear full pads.

Brady had surgery Oct. 6 and a subsequent operation for an infection in the knee.

There have been numerous signs that the NFL MVP in 2007 would be ready for the season opener Sept. 14 against the Buffalo Bills.

In an interview for this week's issue of Sports Illustrated, Brady said he has no pain or restrictions in his movement when he runs and cuts.

He was quoted as saying that he is "as confident as anyone could be that I'll be ready to play, back to playing normally, when the season starts. I've done everything I could to push myself, sometimes too hard. Right now, I'm doing everything. Literally everything. There's nothing I can't do."

The article also quoted the 31-year-old Brady as saying, "I want to play until I am 41."

On Feb. 18, Brady, a two-time Super Bowl MVP, said his recovery was on schedule for him to be ready for the opener.

Ten days later, the Patriots traded Matt Cassel, who had replaced Brady, to Kansas City. Cassel hadn't started the previous seven seasons with Southern California and the Patriots but led New England to an 11-5 record but no playoff berth. He started all 15 games after taking over for Brady in the opener.

The Patriots did not add a veteran quarterback in the offseason, leaving 2008 third-round draft pick Kevin O'Connell as Brady's primary backup

Brady, who has thrown passes to receivers during the offseason, was upbeat in an interview last week with "Patriots Today," the team's in-house internet show.

"I'm feeling great and just excited to be out there on the field, training with my teammates," Brady said. "It's always fun being back in this competitive environment and working with these guys to try to make 2009 our best season. It's been fun to be back."

Cardinals' Boldin set to fire agent Rosenhaus

PHOENIX (AP)—Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Anquan Boldin is in the process of firing his agent Drew Rosenhaus.

Boldin, in a long contract dispute with the team, informed the NFL Players Association in a letter that he intended to replace the agent. The players association says it received the letter on Friday, so with the required five-day waiting period, Boldin can sign with a new agent on Thursday.

Rosenhaus issued a statement saying he has "great respect" for Boldin.

"I'm hopeful we can work things out and he will return to the Rosenhaus Sports family in the near future," Rosenhaus said.

Boldin, who has two years left on his contract with the Cardinals, is upset with the team's management over what he says was a failed promise for a new deal last offseason. He has asked for a trade. The Cardinals said they would listen to offers but on draft day said no team had proposed a deal that could be seriously considered.

The three-time Pro Bowl receiver sat out minicamp with what he said was a sore hamstring. He has not participated in any of the Cardinals' voluntary workouts the last two weeks.

Quarterback Kurt Warner has been outspoken in his desire to get Boldin back with the team.

"Maybe Anquan felt that there was a sticking point there and that this is going to free some things up and allow them to have a different approach coming forward and work better with the Cardinals," Warner said after the workout on Tuesday. "I really don't know. I don't want to speculate on the reasons behind it all but I think I've had hope from day one that they can get something done."

Boldin has been represented by Rosenhaus since being drafted out of Florida State in the second round by Arizona in 2003. He signed a four-year, $22.75 million extension with Arizona in August of 2006, a deal that keeps him under contract through the 2010 campaign. He has a base salary of about $2.75 million next season and $3 million in 2010.

NMIFA welcomes Remington to men's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Islands Football Association will start the 2009 season of the NMIFA Men's Football League this Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex with a new team in Remington.

Remington will join six other teams in their bids for the championship trophy. Making another appearance in the men's league are Inter Godfather's, Matansa Football Club, Independent Football Club, MP United, Korea One, and FC Arirang.

Brad Ruszala, who is coordinating the event, along with Jaime Saiki, said local organizers are looking forward to one of the most competitive seasons in the league with the addition of Remington in the field.

"Remington pulled talented players from a number of clubs, so they should be a threat right from the start," Ruszala said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Ruszala is reminding players to pay the $25 registration fee and submit entry forms to NMIFA's office at the third floor of TSL Plaza in Garapan on or before the second week of the season. He added teams have until the end of the first round to settle the $300 team entrance fee or face forfeiture of their remaining games.

The complete schedule of the games for the first round will be released tomorrow.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Peter Loken, seen here joining the CNMI Nationals training session early this year, hit the game-winning goal for Inter Godfather's in the 2009 NMIFA Men's Fall League.

The last time NMIFA hosted a men's event was in November when it held the fall league.

Inter-Godfather's outlasted MP United-PTI in a shootout, 5-4, to rule the 2008 NMIFA Men's Football Fall League.

CNMI National player Peter Loken scored the winning goal, hitting one to the upper right corner to give Inter-Godfather's three championship trophies in 2008. Inter defeated Onwel, 1-0, in the finals of the President's Cup Football Tournament in March last year and FC Arirang, 2-1, in the 2008 Saipan Cup in August.

Only four teams competed in the fall league with the list including Independent Wild Bill's and Multinational FC. The four teams played in a double round-robin regular season and then went through a crossover semifinals format in the playoffs.

Inter-Godfather's was seeded first in the playoffs, collided with Multinational FC, and won the semifinals, 1-0. The third-seeded MP United-PTI pulled off a 2-1 upset over the second-ranked Wild Bill's in the other semis pairing to arrange a title duel with Inter-Godfather's. Wild Bill's finished third place after blanking Multinational FC in the consolation game, 2-0.

For more information about the upcoming men's league, contact Saiki at 287-9810 or Ruszala at 287-2723.

Nick Sablan gets to keep RGA May Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nick Sablan secured a spot in the year-ending RGA Cup after winning the Refaluwasch Golf Association April May title.

Sablan set the score to beat of 68 during the RGA May qualifying tournament two weeks ago when the club based its qualifying scores on the results of the Mt. Carmel fundraiser at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort.

When RGA members returned to the Kagman golf facility for the second tournament of this month, Ray Tigilau beat Sablan's score with the former firing a net 65. The 22-handicapper Tigilau drilled a 44 and 43 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 87, but could not take the May plum, as he had already won the April Ace.

RGA rules prohibit a member to win multiple monthly titles so Tigilau only took the cash prize for last Sunday's event, while Sablan kept the May Ace plum.

Placing second in the weekend tournament was February Ace Tars Olopai, who carded a net 69. The 8-handicapper Olopai logged a 38 on the front and 39 on the back for a gross 77.

Two players tied for third with Ulyses Kapileo and Louie Tilipao tallying identical net scores of 71. Kapileo won in the scorecard tiebreak with a net 37.5 on the front nine against Tilipao's net 38. The 21-handicapper Kapileo recorded a 48 and 44 on the front and back nines for a gross 92, while Tilipao, who sports a 12 handicap, scored a 44 and 43 for a gross 87.

Twelve other RGA members joined the May Ace tournament, namely Ray Villagomez (80), Vince Attao (76), Dwayne Stephens (82), Joe Demapan (78), Manny Mangarero (73), Jordon Kosam (74), new member Joe Saures (93), Jess Wabol (72), Jesse Seman (80), Jack Sablan (81), Joe Wabol (81), and Tom Tebuteb (91).

Jess Wabol and Olopai won the closest to the pin contests on holes No. 3 and 13, respectively.

Meanwhile, Jess Wabol, RGA's tournament director, would like to thank the Attao, Villagomez, and Jack Sablan families for hosting an early dinner for club members.

He also wishes to congratulate RGA members who won in last Saturday's 8th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament at the Coral Ocean Point course. Wabol added RGA hopes to see more club members participate in two upcoming fundraisers, the Tournament of Champions and NMC Golf, in support of having many community projects in the CNMI.

For more information on RGA tournaments, contact Jess Wabol at 288-1129 or RGA president Jordon Kosam at 483-4503.

CRUZ

From Page 28

Rangamar took four to five unanswered hits to the head, which in Rites of Passage necessitates a fight stoppage.

Two other fighters from Guam also won their bouts with Jess "The Spiderman" Taitano beating Saipan's "Taby" Jay Muna in the semi main event and former Pacific Xtreme Championship heavyweight champ Manny "The Enforcer" Chong defeating Ton "Peskadot" Robert in the main event.

Taitano was simply just too technical and experienced for Muna. At the start, the Saipan fighter looked as if he wanted to stand and bang with Japan Shooto's top-ranked fighter, but Taitano decided to end it quickly and took the fight to the ground where he submitted Muna by triangle arm lock at just one minute and 12 seconds of the first round.

The win allowed Taitano to raise his record 7-4-2, while Muna dropped to a 3-6 slate.

Chong, for his part, showed he's back in championship form as he wore down the much taller but slower Robert all throughout the entire first round with solid leg licks and accurate punches.

Robert groped for form while Chong was making mincemeat out of him, landing only a handfull of strikes. He looked tired and exhausted after the opening round and signaled the referee that he had had enough and verbally tapped out before the start of the second round.

The win raised Chong's MMA record to 13-6, while Robert lost for the third time in five matches.

Saipan Tribune will publish the 10 undercard matches of Rites of Passage 7: Fists of Fury tomorrow.

JEFF

From Page 28

might end up having my head shaved before we go to Fiji," the CNMI coach said.

Race made a challenge to CNMI junior tennis players two years ago, saying he will have his head shaved if the Commonwealth bets will get eight spots on the North Pacific Team.

In 2007, the CNMI Junior Team was one slot away from seeing Race sport a "new hairdo" with the squad claiming the Top 4 spots in the boys' 13-and-under, three in the girls' 13 and boys' 18, and two in the girls' 18. In NPQ rules, only the Top 3 from each age group [only two from the same nation] are allowed to be on the team and participate in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

The CNMI ended up sending only six players, namely, Thea Minor, Miller, Mayuko Arriola, Heo, Russell Buenaventura, and Joe Motto, in Fiji in 2007. Johnson, who finished second in the NPQ did not make the trip, as she had to move to the mainland, a few months before the POJC.

In 2008, CNMI also claimed seven slots with Miller, Minor, and Arriola earning a return trip to POJC and James Camacho, Dina Jones, Decena, and Rafael Jones joining them in Fiji.

Players selected for the North Pacific Team will battle the West and East bets in POJC to be held in Lautoka from Aug. 17 to 21.

The West Team ran its qualifying tournament from May 4 to 8 in Lautoka, while the East will hold its own in American Samoa from July 13 to 17.

KABIRIEL

From Page 28

Oceania tournament.

The 34-year-old athlete completed the 21-kilometer race in 1:31:42 to beat 17 other male participants. Korean veteran runner Bae Jim Keum (1:34:26) placed second, followed by Coco Restaurant's Ronald Villafria (1:37:16) in third place.

Others who completed the rain-soaked 13.1-mile race held on May 2 were Quincy Johnson (1:45:45), Chang Whan Jang (1:48:58), Fred Camacho (1:52:27), Tamio Nishikido (1:52:28), John Douglas (1:56:42), Keone Chariton (2:09:23), Joshua Berger (2:10:52), Manny Sitchon (2:11:52), Yosh Gabaldon (2:14:57), Brad Ruszala (2:29:59), John Jenkins (2:42:50), and Bernard Samson (2:44:17).

The qualifier began at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility and had runners headed to Beach Road, then turned left and headed south to the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio for the first turnaround point. From PIC, runners headed back north for the second turnaround point at Winchell's in Garapan. From Garapan, runners returned to the track and field facility for the final 1 1/4 laps of the race.

Dawn Hammermeister was the lone woman competitor in qualifier, but did not finish the race. NMA hopes to send male and female runners in the Oceania marathon next year.

Kabiriel, in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune,* said he is scheduled to leave for Australia either on July 1 or 2 and get acclimatize in the Gold Coast for one or two days before the race. He added he has been undergoing rigorous training sessions to prepare for the Down Under half marathon.

"I'm doing speed workout for 13 miles. I run 50 miles a week, from Monday to Saturday. I go 10 miles with four miles speed workout and six miles easy run. I wake up at 4:30am and go up to Marpi for my long and speed workouts. At times, I also go to the track in Oleai. Then I go to work," said the Safety First employee.

DEMAPAN

From Page 28

at the Agingan Point course with his even par 36 on the front nine. He closed out with a 6-over par 42 for a gross 78 and net 69.

Demapan won the May Ace by two strokes against former Superior Court presiding judge Ed Manibusan and John Takai, who logged identical net scores of 72.

Manibusan defeated Takai on the No. 8 playoff hole with the former having a bogey on the par-4 hole against the latter's triple bogey.

The 3-handicapper Manibusan also had an even par 36 on the front nine before slowing down a bit in the last nine holes with his 2-over par 38 for a gross 74. Takai, a 28-handicapper, shot a 52 and 47 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 99.

Steve Balakrishna failed to finish in the Top 3, but won in the closest to the pin contests on holes No. 7 and 12. SGA treasurer Joe Sablan prevailed on hole No. 14.

Demapan, who will join early SGA Ace of Aces qualifiers Tony Guerrero (January), Joe Rosario (February), Ray Dela Cruz (March), and Frank Rosario (April), also had a closest to the pin shot on hole No. 3.

Meanwhile, SGA will hold its June Ace tournament early with the monthly event scheduled for May 31 at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi. Check-in time is at 8:30am, while tee off is set for 9:30am.

For more information about SGA tournaments, contact Larry Guerrero at 287-1050 or Mariano Fajardo at 483-2549.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	19	.587	-
New York	26	20	.565	1
Toronto	27	22	.551	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	23	25	.479	5
Baltimore	20	26	.435	7

Central Division

Detroit	25	19	.568	-
Kansas City	23	23	.500	3
Minnesota	23	24	.489	3 1/2
Chicago	21	23	.477	4
Cleveland	19	28	.404	7 1/2

West Division

Texas	27	18	.600	-
Los Angeles	23	22	.511	4
Seattle	20	26	.435	7 1/2
Oakland	18	25	.419	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	25	19	.568	-
New York	25	20	.556	1/2
Atlanta	23	22	.511	2 1/2
Florida	21	26	.447	5 1/2
Washington	13	32	.289	12 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	27	19	.587	-
St. Louis	27	19	.587	-
Cincinnati	25	20	.556	1 1/2
Chicago	22	22	.500	4
Pittsburgh	21	25	.457	6
Houston	18	26	.409	8

West Division

Los Angeles	32	15	.681	-
San Diego	23	23	.500	8 1/2
San Francisco	22	23	.489	9
Arizona	20	26	.435	11 1/2
Colorado	18	27	.400	13

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 5, Florida 3
N.Y. Mets 6, Washington 1
Cincinnati 6, Houston 4
Chicago Cubs 6, Pittsburgh 1, 5 innings
St. Louis 8, Milwaukee 1
L.A. Dodgers 7, Colorado 1
Arizona 6, San Diego 5
San Francisco 4, Atlanta 0
Cleveland 5, Tampa Bay 1
Baltimore 7, Toronto 2
Texas 7, N.Y. Yankees 3
Minnesota 5, Boston 2
Kansas City 6, Detroit 1
Oakland 4, Seattle 3
Chicago White Sox 4, L.A. Angels 2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

27th Annual May Masters Tournament

Far left, Ron Cal, left, celebrates her and teammate Gigi Zapanta's victory in the women's doubles event in the 27th Annual Saipan Bowling Center May Masters Tournament last weekend.

Left, Tony Verdaguer, left, and Jon Eparwa show their men's doubles championship trophies and cash prizes during the awards ceremony for the 27th Annual Saipan Bowling Center May Masters Tournament held at the residence of Saipan Bowling Association president Jerry Tan.

Photos by
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of men's team event champion, from left, Simon Manacop, Tony Verdaguer, and Paul Pangelinan pose for a group photo with their prizes.

Women's team event champion, from left Diane and Carrie Camacho, Emi Williams, and Gloria Omechelang, came in full force to receive their awards.

Right, women's team event runners-up, from left, Mel Regis, Yho Villavicencio, and Cindy Taitano. Also in the team, but not in the photo is Elena Soll.

Far right, women's team event third placers, from left, Rita Palacios and Carol McKenzie, are joined by SBA president Jerry Tan at the stage during the awards ceremony. Also on the team are Sue Ellis and Lucy Guerrero.

Gloria Omechelang won the women's singles, besting Yho Villavicencio and Emi Williams.

Women's May Master top finisher Emi Williams shows her championship trophy and cash prize.

Robert Talavera is all smiles after claiming the men's May Masters championship trophy and cash prize.

Raul Dumapit topped the men's singles event, nailing 663 pinfalls to outclass Tony Verdaguer (638) and Robert Talavera (626).

NMIFA welcomes Remington to men's league

Northern Marianas Islands Football Association will start the 2009 season of the NMIFA Men's Football League this Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex with a new team in Remington.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Howard leads Magic to OT win over Cavs

Superman swooped in just in time. Dwight Howard scored 10 points in overtime and the Orlando Magic, raining down 3-pointers like a Florida thunderstorm.

24

Cruz beats Rangamar in ROP 7

Fellow Guamanians Taitano, Chong also victorious

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

TRENCH TECH

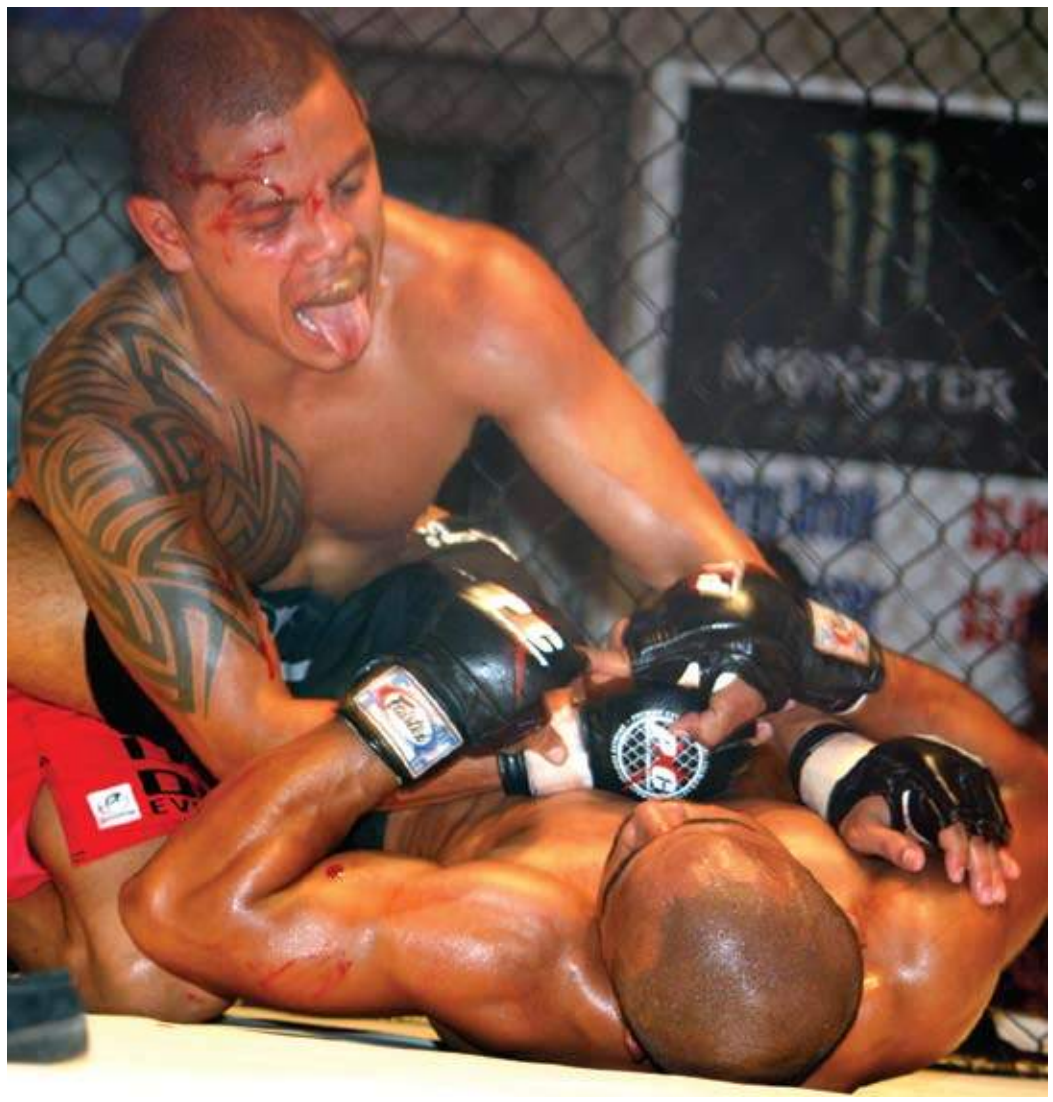
Justin "The Shocker" Cruz and Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar's super fight in last Saturday's Rites of Passage 7: Fists of Fury was true to its billing with the Guamanian fighter winning the closely contested match via referee stoppage.

The Universal Reality Combat Championship bantamweight titleholder and arguably Saipan's biggest little man treated the crowd, which packed Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall, to more than eight minutes of fist-pounding action.

Rangamar, fighting out of Marianas Elite, took the fight to Cruz early in the first round and at one point had the Spike 22 Guam fighter pinned in one of the sides of the octagon cage.

Cruz eventually broke free from the Saipan fighter's hold and brought the match to the ground by body-slamming Rangamar to the mat, where he had the clear advantage.

Despite being on his back and absorbing blows, Rangamar continued to counter-punch and eventually opened a cut on the right side of Cruz's head.



MARK RABAGO

With blood oozing from his head, Justin "The Shocker" Cruz pummels Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar in the second round of their super fight in last Saturday's Rites of Passage 7: Fists of Fury at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

The second round was about Cruz ending the fight as quickly as possible before the ringside doctor steps in and stops the fight on account of his injury.

Rangamar, meanwhile, targeted the cut by pummeling Cruz's head whenever he had the chance, hoping that the enough sight of blood would compel the ringside doctor and referee Tony D'Angelo to call the fight in his favor.

Both fighters clinched and sized each other up before the match again went to the ground with Cruz getting the upperhand anew. Rangamar tried his best to take away the Guamanian's advantage but the latter was too technical and punished the former with consecutive hard double punches to the body and to the head.

The end for Rangamar came at the 3:31 mark of the second when D'Angelo stopped the fight because, according to him, Rangamar had taken too much punishment.

The decision did not sit well with the crowd as many felt Rangamar still had a fighting chance and wanted to see the match go the distance.

D'Angelo later told the audience that fighter safety is Trench Tech's main concern and

See CRUZ on Page 26

Demapan takes SGA May Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Joe Demapan earned a chance to defend his 2008 SGA Ace of the Aces title after winning the Saipan Golfers Association May Ace of the Month Tournament on May 16 at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

SGA's club championship held every December features the 12 monthly Ace winners of the year. Last year, Demapan tallied a net 139 in the two-day Ace of the Aces to beat 11 other monthly titlists.

Demapan

Demapan qualified for last year's club championship in November, but this year he nailed a spot six months earlier after besting 20 other SGA members in the May tournament. SGA based the winner of the SGA May Ace from the scores of its members who participated in the inaugural CNMI Interclub Golf Tournament.

The 9-handicapper Demapan got off to a strong start

See DEMAPAN on Page 26

Kabiriel bound for Down Under half marathon

Kabiriel

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics

Northern Marianas Athletics has named Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel as its lone representative to the Oceania Marathon/Half Marathon Championships to be held in Gold Coast, Australia in July.

This is the first time that the CNMI will be sending an athlete to the Down Under event which will be held on July 5.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune*, NMA president Kurt Barnes said Oceania Athletics Association will pay half of the cost of Kabiriel's airfare, while NMA will shoulder the other half. Meals and lodging will be provided by OAA.

Kabiriel earned a ticket to the half marathon event after ruling the 2009 CNMI Half Marathon Championship, which was a qualifier for the

See KABIRIEL on Page 26

Jeff Race upbeat about CNMI's chances in NPQ

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association

The chances of coach Jeff Race having his head shaved this year are pretty strong.

"I think I might have to prepare having my head shaved because we have a strong chance of getting eight slots on the North Pacific Team," Race said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The CNMI coach has announced the 17-player team that will represent Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association to the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament to be held in Guam from June 15 to 19.

Making the list are Woo Suk Chang, Nathan Nutting, Benjie Decena, Sung Hoon Ham, Lila Mailman, Jodel Fernandez, Dina Jones, and Theecel Minor in the 18-and-under age group and 14-and-under's Rafael Jones, Christian Miller, Jake Lee, Chris Cajigan, Melody Johnson, Amy Arenovski, Ilia Corella, Negahr Rastguiy, and Jeane Bracken. Thea Minor and Ji Hoon Heo earned automatic entries in POJC after placing in the Top 4 in Fiji last season.

Race said the CNMI is heavily favored in the boys' 14-and-under division and is likely to get the Top 2 spots in the girls' 14.

"We have a deep team in the 14-and-under division. In the girls' 18, if Laila is healthy and will recover early from her minor knee injury, we have a strong chance of getting the Top 2 spots. The boys' 18 will be a pretty tough draw with Guam's Michael Tan leading the list, but Woo Suk and Benjie are showing good games and can pull off surprises in the tournament," Race said.

"Overall, our chances in this tournament are really great. I

See JEFF on Page 26

Jodel Fernandez, seen here going for a backhand return in a doubles match in last weekend's DFS tennis tournament, is among the 17 CNMI netters that will compete in the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam next month

ROSELYN B. MONROYO